

Russia: West hostile to Iraq

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said on Saturday some of Moscow's partners were holding back an easing of U.N. sanctions against Iraq despite its progress in complying with Security Council resolutions. "There is a problem. Some of our partners try to see the sanctions issue from a much wider perspective — do they like or don't like the Iraqi regime. But this is not the issue," Mr. Kozyrev told Reuters. "You may or may not like a regime. Provided there is evidence of progress, which seems to be the case right now, we want the Security Council to stick to its own decisions," Mr. Kozyrev, speaking in English, said. He did not elaborate. Iraq had fulfilled many of the disarmament requirements of the Security Council on biological and chemical weapons and this should be taken into account, Mr. Kozyrev said before his departure for the Group of Seven summit in Naples. "Iraq seems to have made considerable progress in complying with U.N. Security Council resolutions," Mr. Kozyrev said. "We favour a conditional easing of the U.N.'s economic embargo against Iraq, particularly on oil."

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Arafat treated with pomp in Jeddah

JEDDAH (AP) — Yasser Arafat was treated with pomp upon arrival Saturday for talks with King Fahd in which he is expected to request Saudi Arabian help to fund the newly formed Palestinian authority. Defence Minister Prince Sultan, the third most powerful man in the kingdom, led the well-wishers who received Mr. Arafat when he landed aboard a Saudi jet that was sent to Tunis to bring him over. On the receiving line were other princes of the Al Saud family, including Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and the governor of Mecca, Prince Majed Ben Abdul Aziz, a brother of King Fahd. The reception marked an official end to the strain in relations prevailing since Mr. Arafat backed Iraq during the Gulf crisis. A trip Mr. Arafat paid to the kingdom in January for a rapprochement with King Fahd had barely broken the ice. No high-ranking dignitary was then on hand to receive him at the airport. Arab diplomats said the Saudi leadership was going out of its way to give Mr. Arafat an official fanfare not as much for himself but in order to underscore Saudi support for the U.S.-led Middle East peace process (see page 12).

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King stresses need for national unity at 'critical stage'

HM meets with deputies, outlines strategy, says challenges demand national coherence

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday stressed the need for national unity and cooperation among the executive and legislative branches of government at a time when Jordan is facing unprecedented challenges and pressures.

The King also said Jordan needed the peace process with Israel out of a conviction in its viability and as a duty, and he would meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin if that is what is required to serve the interests of the country.

"The alternative for unity and cooperation are more pressures than explosion and chaos," King Hussein said

during a meeting with members of the Lower House of Parliament at the Royal Court.

King Hussein warned of elements that are seeking to sow the seeds of discontent in the country, thus threatening the "existence" of the Kingdom.

"Many sides could be thinking that time might have come for this country, which remained steadfast due to the enlightenment of its people, to cease to exist in terms of its weight and influence," the King said in a speech which was broadcast on Jordan Television.

Pointing out that the pressures on Jordan will continue, the King urged that "everybody should rise to the challenges so that Jordan will

remain an example for democracy, shoura and respect for human rights," and can play its role in the region.

The King reiterated earlier warnings that whoever tries to threaten national unity will forever be his enemy, pointing out that concern for national unity goes back to the early days of the Kingdom when "we gave others more than we did to ourselves through all stages of the long struggle."

The King said he was reiterating warnings against attempts to tamper with national unity because "we are facing pressures the likes of which the Kingdom did not confront through its history."

The Hashemites came to this land to maintain its unity and protect it against

schemes that aimed at fragmenting it," King Hussein said.

"I do not think the sons of this country" are willing to subject the Kingdom to such threats because that would mean a catastrophe to the whole Arab Nation, King Hussein said, warning against levelling irresponsible accusations.

"National unity should be protected through enlightenment, loyalty and cooperation (of Jordanians) from all origins," the King said.

Speaking on the peace process, King Hussein urged pragmatism, but stressed that Jordan, which he said always fulfilled its duties to the Arab Nation, is seeking a just and

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'Parliament, Cabinet should work together'

Following are excerpts from the King's address to the members of the Cabinet and Lower House of Parliament at the Royal Court in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan:

"I have received recently some remarks from my brothers the deputies and I appreciate their keenness, which is met by my keenness, to continue contacts amongst us. They have reminded us that we head three estates — the executive, legislative and judicial — and I always remember this and pride my-

self in them all."

"I always wish that we have the chance to work together to serve the homeland and all its people, and I am personally interested that my meetings with my brethren the representatives of the people here in your house would continue... in order to achieve the best always and tackle problems if they exist."

"It seemed to me from remarks by the brethren that there is in this atmosphere, which is full of expectations

'Time for Jordan to secure own interests'

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein said Saturday it was "time for Jordan to look after its own interests" as it prepared for bilateral negotiations with Israel.

In an interview with Lebanese newspaper Al Safir, King Hussein said "Waiting for all (Arab) parties to resolve their problems would mean we were not fulfilling our duties to our people."

King Hussein said Jordan had "hidden nothing" from Syrian leaders, who in turn "did not inform us of the stage they had reached" in negotiations with Israel.

"Coordination has to be a two-way thing," he said, adding that relations with Damascus were "normal."

"Jordan has never hesitated to support its Arab brothers. We fulfilled our engagements in 1967 (Middle East war) and we then supported the Palestinians until they decided to go their own way," he said, referring to the Palestinian self-rule accord.

'Cornered' lawmakers mark time

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Every Saturday, lawmakers gather at the Parliament building for informal meetings that aim to reassert the role of the legislature at a time when many of them say the executive authority is becoming too indifferent to Parliament and its role in Jordanian politics.

Over a month after Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali reshuffled his government, antagonism has resurfaced in the legislative-executive relationship.

For that, parliamentarians contend the prime minister is solely responsible. The reshuffle, they say, had offered the prime

minister an opportunity to mend fences with a House already uneasy about a government that had prematurely dissolved its predecessor, changed the Election Law against its will and showed little recognition of the role of Parliament. But the prime minister missed the opportunity to mend fences with the House, the deputies maintain.

What he did instead, parliamentarians say, was to alienate more lawmakers by keeping away their "institutions" — the blocs — from the negotiations that preceded the reshuffle, thus consolidating among them a convention that the government is out to "split" the groupings.

Ten deputies joined the government in the reshuf-

fle. But the majority of lawmakers say those deputies do not represent the House because neither they nor the government consulted the blocs before they were included in the Cabinet. The prime minister had negotiated with individuals and not with the House, blocs, they say. To

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them, this is unacceptable, and proof that the government shows little regard for the representatives of the people.

Accordingly, the majority of the House members entrenched and launched the Saturday meetings in the absence of other mechanisms through which they would challenge the executive.

Since it is in recession, the House cannot convene in formal meetings. Nor can it propose a no-confidence motion. Such a proposal can only be forwarded in an ordinary session or an extraordinary session whose agenda, which is set by His Majesty the King, allows for it.

But an ordinary session is not possible before October, and an extraordinary session would require the approval of a majority of deputies. That, parliamentarians say, is not possible for two reasons. First, the House has just finished an extraordinary session. Second and most important, deputies would have to agree on the topics that they would want listed on the agenda of the session, and that does not

seem likely. Against these constitutional limitations, all that deputies could do at the time is express their anger with the government, and give it a taste of the trouble it would receive at the House when it convenes later this year if the government is still in office.

This can, at least, give the government a lot of headache.

And this is what the "complaint" which 60 deputies sent to His Majesty King Hussein seems to have done.

In the letter, the deputies charged, among other things, that the government is trying to marginalise them, that it is hiding behind the King, the head of

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KING MEETS TAURAN: His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday received at the Royal Court Vatican Foreign Minister Jean Luis Tauran, who conveyed to the King a verbal message from the Pope expressing appreciation of the King's stands on the holy places in occupied Jerusalem and the King's role in serving humanitarian causes. King Hussein

and Archbishop Tauran reviewed the Middle East peace process and the future of Jerusalem. In addition, they discussed bilateral relations and means of enhancing them, particularly after the Holy See and Amman established diplomatic ties. King Hussein asked the Vatican official to convey his greetings and appreciation to the Pope.

Crown Prince: Coexistence, tolerance key to Jerusalem

By Salameh Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan warned Saturday that raising the issues of Jerusalem and religious custody over holy places in the occupied city was "preliminary," and could "invite passions which might be detrimental" to the peace process.

The Crown Prince was speaking after talks with visiting Vatican Foreign Minister Archbishop Jean-Luis Tauran.

He said he believed it was "premature," at this time, to discuss the issue of Jerusalem in any detail at all, because it invites passions which might be detrimental in the future, and forms of hostilities which might be detrimental to discussing it later on in a calmer context.

He said priority should be given to ongoing political negotiations in the context of "autonomy talks and the progression and extension of

those talks to further territories occupied in 1967."

Archbishop Tauran had earlier called for an international protection for holy sites in Jerusalem, saying the Old City was at risk of losing its character as a symbol for coexistence between followers of the three monotheistic religions.

Referring to the Sep. 13 Israeli-Palestinian accord which defers negotiations over the final status of Jerusalem to the third year of Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories, the archbishop said the delay could threaten the city's identity.

"There is a great danger in waiting," he warned. "The Old City is at risk, bit by bit, of having its specificity and image altered."

The Crown Prince, supporting Archbishop Tauran's call for international guarantees for holy sites in the city and religious rights of all believers, said that the un-

iqueness of Jerusalem intra muros (within the walls), was "ecumenical in the broadest context... it starts by an agreement between believers and then extends to recognition by the international community."

But Prince Hassan appeared to disagree with the Vatican envoy over the timing for dealing with the religious aspects of the conflict and whether or not political negotiations should take precedence over a settlement of religious matters.

The Crown Prince said Jordan and the Vatican shared the view that Jerusalem is occupied territory as of 1967, and that both sides "share a commitment to joint moral authority in the Holy City."

Jordan's role in administering the Islamic sites in the Old City, Prince Hassan said, "is recognised and accepted by the international community of Muslims."

"By definition, a trust or

(Continued on page 2)

Sanaa pursues unity; exiles plan resistance

SANAA (Agencies) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh plans to announce a national reconciliation cabinet that will push for Saudi Arabia, government sources said Saturday.

The kingdom and other oil-rich Gulf Arab states were seen as backing the southern secessionists in the nine-week Yemeni civil war, leaving a legacy of bitter relations.

The southern rebels meanwhile announced they intended to form a government in exile and continue fighting against the north, despite the fall of Aden to northern forces.

Mr. Saleh declared an end to the conflict Thursday after his forces seized Aden and the eastern port of Mukalla, the south's two main cities.

The government sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, could not say whether southern politicians would be included in the new national reconciliation government.

But they said the front-runner to head the cabinet as prime minister was the planning minister in the current government, Abdul Karim Al Iryani, a northerner.

They said the new government would be announced "shortly."

The Kuwaiti newspaper Al Seyassah reported that Mr. Saleh would convene parliament this weekend to elect a new leadership that would include at least one rival from the south.

It quoted an unidentified Yemeni official as saying the new five-member presidential council — the supreme executive body, separate from the cabinet — was expected to include Salim Saleh Mohammad, who belonged to the breakaway leadership of the former vice president, Ali Salem Al Beidh.

But the government sources told the Associated Press that the Kuwaiti report was incorrect, or "premature" at least.

Official media in the capi-

tal said Mr. Saleh telephoned leaders of the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Libya to discuss ways of reconciling with Gulf and other states that backed the secessionists.

Also Saturday, Yemeni Information Minister Hassan Al Lawzi said Sanaa placed a high priority on mending fences with its neighbours.

"The Yemeni government after the war will direct itself to building brotherly ties on the level of the Arabian peninsula and the regional and Arab levels," he said during a visit to Doha, Qatar.

He was there to deliver a message of gratitude from Sanaa to the Qatari leadership. Qatar was singular among the oil-rich, conservative Arab states of the region because it overtly supported Sanaa against the southern leadership.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has condemned the vicious northern leaders for their "insistence" on continuing to fight, despite Saudi-sponsored U.N. appeals for a

Jordan restates its stand

THE JORDANIAN government stands by its firm policy with regard to the recent developments in Yemen and continues to support Yemeni unity and territorial integrity, of Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said Saturday.

Speaking after a regular cabinet meeting, Dr. Anani said that in implementation of His Majesty King Hussein's directives the government will be providing all possible aid to the people of Yemen to help them rebuild the country and to treat the injured in the war.

Plans are under way to provide the necessary medical assistance to the Yemeni people, he said.

The minister said the government would continue to call and work for reconciliation and solidarity among Arab states so as to confront the common challenges ahead.

ceasefire

That criticism has led to speculation that King Fahd and other Gulf leaders may help southern rebels to lead a guerrilla insurgency from abroad, observers said.

Fighting broke out May 4 after months of vicious quarrels between Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh over the future of their four-year-old agreement to merge North Yemen and South Yemen.

The Gulf alliance has long

been wary of Yemen. Some worry its moves towards democracy could threaten their family-ruled states while others fear Mr. Saleh's newfound political power since the merger created the Arabian Peninsula's most populous country.

The Kuwait News Agency reported that the premier of the breakaway south, Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas,

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N. Korean leader dies; country's course uncertain

SEOUL (Agencies) — Kim Il-Sung, North Korea's authoritarian "great leader" since the founding of the Stalinist state in 1948, has died of a heart attack, North Korea announced on Saturday.

Kim, 82, died on Friday at 2 a.m. (1700 GMT Thursday), ending the modern world's longest, and perhaps strangest, absolute reign. He ruled his people with a rod of iron, a surreal personality cult and almost complete isolation from the outside world.

His death throws into doubt a series of diplomatic initiatives, including high-level talks between Washington and Pyongyang and the first-ever North-South Korean summit, billed as the best chance in 50 years to

dismantle the world's last cold war frontier.

"Although the heart of the great leader comrade Kim Il-Sung stopped beating, the August name and tender image of the fatherly leader will always remain in the hearts of our people and his great revolutionary exploits will shine forever along with history," said an official statement carried by the (North) Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo.

Kim's sudden death, greeted with stunned disbelief and hysteria by weeping citizens in Pyongyang, paves the way for what will be communism's first dynastic succession.

His son Kim Jong-Il, 52, has been groomed for decades for the leadership and

analysts said there was every reason to expect a smooth transition.

During his reign his father enjoyed a quasi-divine status more extravagant even than those of his fellow communists Josef Stalin and Mao Tse-tung, and the mass mourning on Saturday was in keeping with his cult.

Thousands of North Koreans went weeping to the huge statue, looming over Pyongyang, of the only leader most have ever known.

"It is a spectacle of mass, organised hysteria," said Krzysztof Darewicz, correspondent for Poland's PAP news agency and one of the few foreigners able to visit the standing by near the monument to treat people overcome by emotion.

"In our embassy the

gardeners and translators just sit and cry," Mr. Darewicz added.

A nine-day period of mourning has been announced, with Kim's body to be on display in central Pyongyang. His July 17 funeral will be a purely internal affair — no foreign delegations are to be invited.

In South Korea, armed forces went on emergency alert with all military leave cancelled, and Seoul government officials said the 1.1-million strong North Korean military was also apparently on alert.

At the border village of Panmunjom, deep in the demilitarised zone (DMZ) which divides the two Koreas, the world's largest flag, dominating the North Korean side of the cold war

frontier, flew at half-mast. Loudspeakers at the border played funeral music and psalms of praise for their departed leader.

South Korean radio said the broadcasts also referred to Kim Jong-Il as "his excellency," which analysts said was the first time this title, normally reserved for his father, had been used for the younger Kim.

Japan's military and U.S. forces in Japan were placed on a "pre-emergency" alert on Saturday, Kyodo News Agency reported.

South's Kim Young-Sam had been scheduled to meet his North Korean counterpart for a first-ever summit between leaders of the two Koreas in Pyongyang on July

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Tauran: Holy City threatened, Vatican shares Jordan's view

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Vatican's foreign minister warned against the disintegration of East Jerusalem's international identity and criticised the delay in negotiating the final status of the city in Middle East peace negotiations.

The Holy City, revered by the three monotheistic religions, is "something unique which belongs to the whole world," said Jean-Luis Tauran, who is on a three-day official visit to the Kingdom. "Its identity should be preserved. We are talking about communities and believers, not only monuments."

"There is great danger in waiting (for a few years until the status of Jerusalem is negotiated). The Old City is at risk, bit by bit, the specificity, the image is altered," he said.

Speaking at a breakfast His Royal Highness Crown

Prince Hassan gave in his honour, the archbishop warned that "before territorial problems are resolved, we have to find international guarantees to safeguard the uniqueness of the city... an assurance that, never again, one party would claim Jerusalem as their possession."

"It should be a crossroad of peace, a bridge between earth and heaven," he added.

The Crown Prince lauded the Vatican's position on East Jerusalem, in that it was in the political and legal context, compatible with that of Jordan. The Vatican, Archbishop Tauran said, believes that the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, including East Jerusalem, is illegal and U.N. resolution 242 was applicable to the city. The Crown Prince stressed the importance of inter-faith dialogue and the joint moral authority towards the holy places (see story above).

Archbishop Tauran, who

arrived in Amman early Friday, described the Kingdom as a moderate country which enjoys tolerance.

He said that the Kingdom had a major role in this part of the world considered by the Vatican as extremely important for its religious value.

He said his visit to Jordan comes as part of efforts exerted by the Vatican to support the peace process, noting that the Middle East, which has suffered as a result of war and hatred has now to look for a secure and stable future.

The trip marks the first official talks between the Vatican and Jordan since they established diplomatic relations in March.

After his meeting with the Crown Prince, the archbishop met with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

Archbishop Tauran said at

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Negotiations turn to complicated West Bank

By Dan Perry
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — For Israelis and Palestinians, working out self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho has had enough.

Expanding it to the rest of the West Bank, the focus of Wednesday's Paris summit between Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin, will be even more difficult.

Mr. Arafat, who received a lukewarm welcome on his historic return, badly needs to show that he has not settled for half a loaf, that he really is building a Palestinian state.

Mr. Arafat had nothing to offer his people but emotional appeals for help and unity, said Khalil Shikaki, director of the Center for Palestinian Research and Studies in Nablus.

If denied real powers in the West Bank, Mr. Arafat would seem "a powerless mukhtar, or mayor, in Gaza and Jericho," he said. Although last September's Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord foresaw self-rule extending throughout the West Bank, it was vague on details and timing.

Mr. Arafat now calls for a speedy Israeli withdrawal from West Bank towns. Israel pulled out of Gaza and Jericho over just one week in May — after six months of tortuous negotiations.

Israeli officials focus instead on the more limited notion of "early empowerment" for the West Bank in five civilian areas: health, education, agriculture, tourism and taxes.

The Palestinian police would remain in Gaza and Jericho, and Israeli troops would remain in West Bank cities, making an Arafat takeover impossible.

The Paris summit was expected to determine whether the focus of future

efforts will be on transferring civil authorities or on arranging elections for a self-rule council.

Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath said elections would be held before year's end and Mr. Arafat said Israel should withdraw its troops from the rest of the West Bank by August.

But Israeli officials said the timing was unrealistic and dismissed it as pressure tactics.

"They push for dates and then put the blame on Israel for not delivering," Uri Dromi, head of Israel's government press office, told the Associated Press. "It's the same pattern and it's not so healthy."

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There is also doubt about whether Mr. Arafat really wants to put his authority to the test, especially against Muslim fundamentalist rivals who have established a measure of popularity in the Gaza Strip.

Yossi Beilin, Israel's deputy foreign minister and a leading architect of the peace process, said that without such a vote there will not be full autonomy in the West Bank.

More important, he said, was starting talks on a permanent settlement on schedule in May 1996. Those talks will determine final borders, the fate of settlers and East Jerusalem.

His comments reflected Israeli ambivalence about moving on to the West Bank phase.

For many Israelis, the attraction was unloading Gaza, a tiny coastal strip where almost half the two million occupied Palestinians — and the most restive part — resided.

They would be happy to pause now — rather than weaken Israel's grip on the strategic West Bank, which

at one point juts so close to the coastal metropolis of Tel Aviv that it makes Israel less than 16 kilometres wide.

The West Bank also contains aquifers that supply much of Israel's water and numerous sites holy to Jews, Muslims and Christians alike.

A West Bank redeployment raises the complicated question of protecting more than 120,000 Jewish settlers scattered throughout the area, some in or near Arab towns.

In Gaza there were only a few thousand, mostly in one contiguous bloc, and Jericho has no Jews.

For Palestinians, who once aspired to the entire territory now controlled by Israel, any peace deal without the West Bank, which is roughly 16 times the size of Gaza, is a non-starter.

"The West Bank has far more potential for economic growth and absorbing refugees than Gaza. It is home to the intelligentsia and has a greater diversity of political currents important to making us a democracy," said Palestinian negotiator Salim Tamari, a sociology professor at the West Bank's Bir Zeit University.

Its 1.2 million residents have a per capita income twice that of the annual \$700 in Gaza, where some 800,000 live in an area of only about 350 square kilometres.

That would translate into important tax revenue needed by the impoverished self-rule government for its administration and for investing in Gaza, said Hassan Abu Libdeh, deputy director of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction.

Mr. Abu Libdeh said it would be extremely difficult to collect taxes in the West Bank as envisaged by "early empowerment" without the presence of the Palestinian police.

who came from outside and others who fled fighting in some districts of Aden for safer areas.

A further 100,000 had fled Aden, capital of the eastern Shabwa province, and nearby towns, where Mr. Ani said southern air raids continued until the last days of the war.

Twenty-five thousand people were displaced in the southern provinces of Lahj and Abyan, where aid workers have reported a diarrhoea epidemic, he added.

"The displaced people are not like those in other countries. The majority of them were hosted by villages and tribes or in schools — they were not living under open skies."

But he said some may still require shelter when they return to their villages and find them damaged.

Other aid workers say Yemeni tribes have been vying with each other to supply livestock and vegetables to areas affected by the war, and to host evacuees from trouble-spots.

They said international help would be needed for more technical tasks like clearing thousands of mines which the northern government said had been laid by their southern opponents as they retreated south.

Mr. Arafat was due in Saudi Arabia on Saturday to ask King Fahd for money directly needed for the new Palestinian authority in Gaza and Jericho, PLO sources said.

Mr. Arafat disclosed his plans at a meeting of the Central Committee of Fateh, his mainstream faction of the PLO, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

They did not say exactly when Mr. Arafat would make his permanent move to the Palestinian home lands, where limited self-rule is being given 27 years after Israel seized the territories.

But they said he would be back in Tunis on Sunday for the official farewell by President Ben Ali.

Mujahedeen manoeuvres:

Masoud Rajavi, leader of the Majahdeen-e-Khalq, the main Iranian opposition group, at a recent military exercise held by the group in its base near the Iraq-Iran border.

The group invited foreign and local reporters to the exercises.

In a rare appearance before the international press, Mr. Rajavi warned Tehran: "Time is running out for the mullahs. Soon we shall convey the good news of liberation to the Iranian people."

The exercises, which the Mujahedeen say lasted 15 days, came when relations between Baghdad and Tehran are at their lowest ebb since the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war.



Geagea supporters charged with war bombings

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese authorities pressed fresh charges against members of the banned mostly Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) group, accusing them of civil war car-bombings, a Lebanese newspaper said on Saturday.

They were the latest charges against members of the former militia since its chief Samir Geagea was accused of masterminding a February church bombing that killed 11 people and the 1982 killing of rival leader Dan Chamoun and family.

Beirut's Al Nahar newspaper said the military prosecutor demanded the death penalty for George Lawoon, Samir Abi Younis and Tony

Al Khoury, members of the LF intelligence organ, for allegedly blasting bombs that killed or wounded some 100 people during the war.

It said the three confessed to interrogators that they had set off the car bombs with other militiamen who remain at large.

Lebanon issued an amnesty in 1991 for crimes committed during the 1975-90 civil war but warned that it would open the civil war files of those who commit new crimes.

The government banned the LF, the country's largest Christian militia during the war, on March 23 after arresting several of its mem-

bers in connection with the church blast.

Dr. Geagea, who has been held at the defence ministry since his arrest in April, will be the first warlord to stand trial.

Earlier this week he was questioned about his suspected role in the 1986 killing of a member of a rival party.

Al Nahar also said authorities pressed charges of breaking Lebanon's print law against the London-based Arab magazine Al Wasat for publishing an interview this week with a chief suspect in the Chamoun case who remains at large: Ghassan Tuma, head of the LF's

security organ during the war.

The government has banned entry to Lebanon of the issue, in which Mr. Tuma denied any link between the LF and the church blast or the Chamoun killing and accused the government of making up the charges because his group opposed its policies.

The paper said the interview — which did not carry a date line but was presumably conducted in the United States where Mr. Tuma is seeking political asylum — was deemed "libellous of the Lebanese judicial and military institutions."

Arafat to quit Tunisia Monday

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat will leave Tunisia for the last time Monday after 12 years in exile here, informed Tunisian sources said.

Mr. Arafat will leave Tunisia — the site of the PLO administration in exile — Monday afternoon following a farewell ceremony given by Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, the sources said.

Mr. Arafat is to settle in the newly-autonomous territories as head of the Palestinian authority charged with running the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Mr. Arafat was due in Saudi Arabia on Saturday to ask King Fahd for money directly needed for the new Palestinian authority in Gaza and Jericho, PLO sources said.

Mr. Arafat disclosed his plans at a meeting of the Central Committee of Fateh, his mainstream faction of the PLO, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

They did not say exactly when Mr. Arafat would make his permanent move to the Palestinian home lands, where limited self-rule is being given 27 years after Israel seized the territories.

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Jerusalem threatened

(Continued from page 1)

the meeting with Dr. Majali that the Vatican supported the Middle East peace process and highly appreciated His Majesty King Hussein's efforts towards the establishment of a lasting peace in the region.

The Vatican believes it has a role to play in making the peace process achieve success and views the city of Jerusalem as a holy place for the three monotheistic religions," he said.

Dr. Majali outlined Jordan's position with regard to the peace process, reaffirming the country's stand which considers the Holy City as part of the Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war.

The prime minister said Jordan was keen on maintaining strong ties with the Holy See.

Last night, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Tal Al Hassan held a dinner in honour of the senior Vatican official, who had served for

four years as the Holy See's representative in Lebanon.

The two ministers exchanged speeches in which they stressed the need to walk together towards strengthening bilateral relations and serving the cause of peace.

The achievement of peace has been the central theme and driving force of Jordanian foreign policy and enormous effort has accordingly been exerted in this regard," Mr. Hassan said.

"We have always advocated a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region, based on the principles of international law and legitimacy as embodied in Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, specifically the principles of the return of land for peace, Palestinian self-determination, and withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, a city that we all hold dear to us and one that signifies the unity of monotheistic religion."

"Presently, we are working

Coexistence

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endowment is a sacred trust that we continue to exercise to mosques and holy places, to sites, madrasas, to every aspect of religious responsibility," he said, explaining that this was "not a possessive Jordanian claim. It is a religious responsibility and should be understood as such as we move towards further awareness and consciousness of Jerusalem within the context of the Old City, the inter-religious future of Jerusalem."

"Our hope is that a day will come where shared responsibility will include the symbols of the star (of David), the

cross and the crescent, (something which) could ultimately be guaranteed by the international community of states," he added.

Separating between a political settlement and a religious settlement, the Crown Prince explained that "we are obviously not seeking a national or international solution when it comes to religious responsibility and the sacred trust. The national or international solution applies to the political context — occupation, the end of it and future political symbols here I am talking about the heart and soul of the question which is the religious aspect — tolerance and religious coexistence."

Korea

(Continued from page 1)

25-27 and his spokesman said later that pending transition of power in the North he could not comment on whether it could go ahead as scheduled.

In Italy, U.S. President Bill Clinton, meeting Group of Seven (G-7) leaders in Naples, expressed "sincere condolences to the people of North Korea." In a statement he praised Kim Il-Sung's leadership in resuming U.S.-North Korean talks, adding: "We hope they will continue."

Envoy tells of seeing murdered sailors' bodies

TUNIS (R) — Seven Italian seamen killed aboard their ship in Algeria by suspected guerrillas appeared to have been tied up with ropes before their throats were slit, Italy's ambassador to Algeria said on Friday.

"I saw the horrible spectacle of the blood-soaked berths in the cabin," the envoy, Patrizio Schmidlin, told Reuters in a telephone interview from the port of Jenjen near Jijel, about 230 kilometres east of Algiers.

"The bodies were transported to the morgue of the Jijel hospital... we could see the wounds."

"We could see traces of rope around the arms and feet. They had been tied up," he said.

The ambassador said the killers had used knives to cut the victims' throats but he saw no trace of other weapons. He believed that the killings had taken place at about 2 a.m. on Thursday and there were no known witnesses.

The killings brought to 42 the number of foreigners killed in Algeria since fighting erupted in 1992 between Muslim fundamentalists and security forces.

It was the second largest single killing of foreigners in Algeria, where 12 Croat technicians were murdered last December. Their throats were also cut.

An estimated 3,700 Algerians have been killed since 1992 when the government cancelled general elections, the fundamentalists were set to win.

"The terrorist pattern is clear," the Italian ambassador said. "The same system was used as in previous cases. It is like the 12 Croat technicians murdered last December."

The Italian-flagged semi-na carrier Lucina was docked in the isolated port of Jenjen 10 kilometres from the main port of Jijel at the time of the killings.

The only other ship in the small port was a Maltese-flagged vessel whose crew had not heard or seen anything, the ambassador said.

"Unfortunately, the ship stayed a long time at the same place because of lack of means to unload it, and thus probably gave the terrorists the time to plan their action," he said.

The bodies of the seven sent aboard an Italian force Hercules C-130 transport plane at a base near Naples late on Friday, the ambassador said.

The attack marred the start of the Group of Seven summit in Naples and commentators said the world's richest nations would have to take militancy seriously.

Algeria's Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, in a message to Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, called the latest killings "an abject action" and vowed to arrest and punish the attackers.

Mr. Sifi's message, reported by the official Algerian news agency APS, monitored in Tunis, said the attack was "carried out by criminal hands with the aim of spreading death and desolation."

U.N. seeks urgent Aden aid

SANAA (R) — A senior U.N. official has appealed for urgent international aid to relieve critical food, water and medical shortages in the southern Yemeni city of Aden after it suffered weeks of siege and bombardment.

Awni Al Ani said diarrhoea and malaria threatened many residents, whose numbers have swollen to over 500,000 after an influx from surrounding regions during Yemen's civil war.

He said government forces who regained control of the city on Thursday, crushing southern attempts to recreate an independent state, were distributing some food and water.

But a near total breakdown of Aden's water, sewage and medical operations, as well as acute food shortages, created a need for immediate foreign assistance.

"We have been upset about the limited response of the international community to support our humanitarian efforts," Mr. Ani, the U.N.'s resident coordinator, told Reuters.

"There are indications of diarrhoea (cases) of the worst kind in huge numbers in Aden," he said. "Malaria was always a problem, and the whole thing has been

worsened by lack of food, medicine and water and by the hot weather."

He said the first consignment of international aid was expected to be shipped to Aden from Djibouti next Wednesday.

But he said more generators, water pumps and pipes were urgently needed to reconstruct the water supply system to the parched city at the tip of the Arabian Peninsula, as well as rebuild irrigation networks for Yemen's key farming sector.

"We need them now — not in one year's time," he said. He said before civil war between north and south began on May 4, the United Nations had stored 6,000 tonnes of food — mainly flour, oil, wheat, pulses (edible seeds of leguminous plants) and sugar — inside Aden.

"I hope that they are still available for the people," he said. Yemen's Interior Ministry has issued strict warnings to inhabitants against looting.

Aden was the capital of a self-declared southern Yemeni state which tried but failed to break away from four years of union with the north. The south's leaders have fled abroad.

Mr. Ani said the war had created around 200,000 displaced people in Aden, some

who came from outside and others who fled fighting in some districts of Aden for safer areas.

A further 100,000 had fled Aden, capital of the eastern Shabwa province, and nearby towns, where Mr. Ani said southern air raids continued until the last days of the war.

Twenty-five thousand people were displaced in the southern provinces of Lahj and Abyan, where aid workers have reported a diarrhoea epidemic, he added.

"The displaced people are not like those in other countries. The majority of them were hosted by villages and tribes or in schools — they were not living under open skies."

But he said some may still require shelter when they return to their villages and find them damaged.

Other aid workers say Yemeni tribes have been vying with each other to supply livestock and vegetables to areas affected by the war, and to host evacuees from trouble-spots.

They said international help would be needed for more technical tasks like clearing thousands of mines which the northern government said had been laid by their southern opponents as they retreated south.

Mr. Arafat was due in Saudi Arabia on Saturday to ask King Fahd for money directly needed for the new Palestinian authority in Gaza and Jericho, PLO sources said.

Mr. Arafat disclosed his plans at a meeting of the Central Committee of Fateh, his mainstream faction of the PLO, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

They did not say exactly when Mr. Arafat would make his permanent move to the Palestinian home lands, where limited self-rule is being given 27 years after Israel seized the territories.

But they said he would be back in Tunis on Sunday for the official farewell by President Ben Ali.

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JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 ... Le Matin Du Pain
18:30 ... News in French
18:45 ... Fault Pas Revers
19:00 ... News in Hebrew
19:05 ... World Cup Football Match
21:00 ... Soccer Live
22:00 ... News in English
22:30 ... World Cup Football Match

PRAYER TIMES

03:00 ... Fajr
13:31 ... Sunrise (Doha)
12:41 ... Dhuhr
16:21 ... Asr
19:49 ... Maghrib
21:23 ... Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 832785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 823841
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 872410
De la Salle Church Tel. 861757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 822346
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 823541
Anglican Church Tel. 820851, Tel. 828543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771371

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.

775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

St. Euphrasie Church Tel. 771751

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 841195

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 858032

Church of Nazareth Tel. 875091

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811298

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will rise slightly with winds northwesterly light to moderate. In Asaba, hot weather conditions will prevail with winds northerly moderate and calm.

Min./Max. temp. 20/35

Asaba 20/35

Dover 18/37

Jordan Valley 24/40

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Asaba 40, Humidity readings: Amman 22 per cent, Asaba 25 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fayez Dabbas 791155
Dr. Jamil Tarif 791701
Dr. Abbas Al Hakem 885446
Dr. Shatnash Al Izah 753774
First pharmacy 661912
Finkow pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 837855
Nauvukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmouni pharmacy 637681
Nauvukh pharmacy 773111
Najih pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Fayez Al Qadi 248743

Dr. Tareq Hijawi 985445

Khalid pharmacy 985417

ZARQA:

Dr. Tareq Hijawi 985445

Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 601111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Haween Medical Centre 813813/82

Khalid Maternity, J

Democracy is the tool of social construction, stability — Majali

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is proud to have started its march towards democracy, political pluralism and parliamentary rule, and the Kingdom strongly believes that democracy is a vital element for attaining equality and social justice, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Saturday.

Addressing the opening session of a two-day meeting organised by the World Affairs Council at Amra Hotel, the prime minister said the 1989 parliamentary elections gave democracy further momentum and the legislation concerning the country's political parties contributed further towards enhancing the democratisation process.

"In Jordan we are determined to work at all levels to see democracy serving as a tool for social construction and stability and the fulfillment of sustainable development, and employed as an instrument for decision-making based on the concept of justice," said Dr. Majali at the meeting entitled, "Democracy in the Arab World." The democratic process in Jordan is still in its early stages, but there is a unanimous decision by the Jordanian people to pursue democracy at all levels because it provides the best guarantee for the protection of a pluralistic society, said the premier.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, president of the council (Petra photo) Council. Right is Senator and former

Referring to the situation in the Arab World at large, Dr. Majali said that many Arabs still yearn for democracy and to be part of the decision-making process in their own countries. It is unreasonable and illogical for the Arab states to remain isolated from the rest of the world which is witnessing deep-rooted political changes with many autocracies being converted into

democracies, said the prime minister. "Arab society will not accept the continuation of the present state of affairs and the disarray and deterioration in relations among Arab countries and I believe that changes are bound to occur," Dr. Majali added.

The prime minister expressed belief that true democracy does not confine itself to the relationship between the ruler and the ruled, but rather it permeates all social organisations — the households, the schools and various public and private institutions. Taking part in the two-day meeting are scholars and intellectuals from Jordan, Egypt, Canada, Sudan and Palestine along with serving and former ministers and representatives of women's unions in Jordan.

Jordan to train Sudanese medical groups

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Sudanese Medical Association (SMA) and Jordan University Hospital Saturday agreed that training courses at the hospital will be given to Sudanese medical cadres, according to SMA President Hassan Qureish. Dr. Qureish, who has been touring health centres and hospitals in the past week, said that the Sudanese trainees would be trained mainly in dialysis techniques and intensive care services. He said that he found Jordan has achieved advanced standards in this area, and Sudan would like to benefit from the Kingdom's experiences.

Sudanese hospitals have been referring many of their patients to Jordanian hospitals for treatment of special cases, said Dr. Qureish. Sudanese health officials in the district of Jazirah have expressed a desire to set up a Jordanian-Sudanese pharmaceutical plant in Sudan in view of the high quality of Jordan's pharmaceutical products, said Dr. Qureish who toured several drug manufacturing industries in the Kingdom.

Jordanian medicine is widely used in Sudan's hospitals and health centres and is preferred over other drugs although they are sometimes more expensive than others of the same kind, according to Dr. Qureish. Jordan Medical Association (JMA) President Ishaq Maraga said the eight-member Sudanese delegation came to Jordan last Monday at the invitation of the JMA after the SMA expressed interest in launching close cooperation with Jordan in health care. Dr. Maraga said the SMA delegation, which leaves for home Monday,

said it would take steps towards implementing the agreements reached with the Jordanian side. During its visit the delegation met Health Minister Aref Bataineh and other senior health officials and visited Al Bashir government hospital and the physiotherapy centre. The SMA team expressed a desire to see Jordanian-Sudanese cooperation in setting up a physiotherapy centre in Sudan, benefiting from Jordanian experience. According to Dr. Qureish, Sudan was aiming at ensuring primary health care services to all its citizens by the year 2000.

Cabinet approves EU financing of projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Saturday approved a recommendation by a ministerial council on development to conclude an agreement with the European Union (EU) for financing water and sewerage projects in Jordan at a cost of ECU 11.751 million. A Cabinet statement said that the minister approved an agreement for a loan to Jordan from the European Investment Bank to finance ECU 25 million worth of telecommunications projects to expand the present telecommunications network and pave the ground for linking Jordan's network with those in the neighbouring Arab region.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabie press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

FILM

- ★ Film entitled "Stagecoach" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m. (99 minutes).

FASHION SHOW

- ★ Fashion show by designer Mohammad 'Amr at the Royal Cultural Centre, main theatre, at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Arab Artists in France" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabal Lawzeh, off Al Muntazah Circle (Tel. 630128).
- ★ Sculpture and ceramic exhibition by Iraqi

artist Laith Al Turk at the Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Uttheima (Tel. 626932).

★ Painting exhibition by artist Fakhr Farzat at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).

★ Exhibition by plastic artist Khairi Harzallah at the Jordanian Plastic Association in Shmeisani (Tel. 699914).

★ Exhibition by artist Bishara Al Najjar at the Orient Gallery for Fine Arts, Gardens Str. (Tel. 698513).

★ Painting exhibition by Iraqi painters "The Pioneers Group" at Al Ain Art Gallery — Wadi Sagra (Tel. 644451).

★ Exhibition on the development of "Le Louvre" at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Painting exhibition by artist George Bahjouri at Al Balqa Art Gallery (Tel. 720677).

Sanaa pursues Yemeni unity

(Continued from page 1)

announced the southern leadership's intention of forming a government in exile to continue fighting against the north. It was not clear where the exile government would be based. Reports in Sanaa depicted the rebels on the run. The official news agency SABA said southern troops had fled or surrendered in the eastern Al Mahrah province near the Omani border.

"Attas" declared the intention of southern Yemen's leadership to form a government in exile (and said) many areas (of the south) were still under the control of southern troops," the Kuwait News Agency said.

It said Mr. Attas was speaking to it from the United Nations in New York. Mr. Attas was in New York as part of U.N.-sponsored peace negotiations between the two sides which failed to bring about a ceasefire before the Sanaa government's forces overran Aden.

Sanaa warned Saudi Arabia Friday against aiding the southern separatists and said it hoped to turn over a new leaf in its relations with the kingdom.

"Any further destabilisation in Yemen cannot be done without outside help," said Dr. Iryani from New York.

"Therefore I am predicting that all our neighbours will not assist in destabilising Yemen," he said.

Group formed 'to correct worsening circumstances' of Arab artists

By Ian Atalla Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Some 250 artists and professors from throughout the Arab World have joined together in a new association which seeks "to improve and correct the worsening circumstances facing creative people and culturalists in the Arab World," according to the group's founding statement.

"These Arab artists and scholars have come together to do what must be done, to put reality in front of the people, and wake them up," said Jordanian artist Tawfiq Sayed, secretary-general of the new group called the Arab Gathering for Studies and Criticism of the Fine Arts.

Mr. Sayed said that the gathering, which announced the members of its higher committee and executive administration on June 27, and is still adding to its membership roster, is determined to

struggle against what its members see as a cultural and artistic crisis at large in the Arab World. "We are fighting, hand in hand, to save our Arab identity in art and culture," he said.

The pan-Arab arts community in the Arab World, he maintained, is suffering from a lack of appreciation by responsible circles for its worth and its submission, forced or otherwise, to the politics and ideological creeds prevailing in the region. "And for our artists this is disastrous. An is truth, and when there is no truth, the very essence of truth disappears."

"The disease of the Arabs is our denial of reality — we have educated our generations not to see the truth, or how to perceive and analyse reality, to create a healthy intellect inside of us," Mr. Sayed said. "We desperately need to find a way to develop a system of pure critical

thought." Mr. Sayed also referred to what he saw as the uncritical adoption and imitation of foreign artistic styles and philosophy from the West into Arab artworks.

He emphasised that the newly-formed gathering, which, he said, is now studying its agenda for potential conferences, studies, and cooperative work, would be free of any political affiliation to preserve its independence of thought.

The group will work, he said, "through action and not just words" to present a critical and honest mechanism to evaluate the directions in which Arab fine arts are travelling and generate proposals for improving the situation.

According to Mr. Sayed, the 20-member higher committee of the gathering also includes Jordanian doctor Muhanna Dura, the ambassador of the Arab League in Moscow. The overall



Tawfiq Sayed

membership list of the gathering, not yet ready for release, will include a large number of other Jordanian artists and university professors, he added.

Mr. Sayed maintained that the situation for the artistic community in Jordan is an extremely poor one, more so than in most other Arab countries. Here in Jordan, he said, "the very history of our

artists is being erased" because of the current politics of patronage and insiderness in practice at responsible levels and a general lack of care for arts and culture at the social level as a whole.

In particular, he blasted the Ministry of Culture for what he saw as incompetence in guiding Jordan's cultural progress.

The ministry, Mr. Sayed said, "is giving authority to people who have no qualifications or interest in art, while the people who are qualified and concerned are not given any voice in the matter."

"These people in the Ministry of Culture and other circles don't understand what His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, and the prime minister have repeatedly spoken of — that creative people are the wealth of the country." In particular, he said, an

artist is a cultural ambassador for his country.

"Autocracy, bureaucracy, call it what you will," said Mr. Sayed, "but I call it dishonesty, and a denial of the heritage of our soil. And if things stay this way, we will never write a single page which will stay in history."

"This is the reason for the creation of this group," Mr. Sayed said in reference to the gathering. "To create a new formula, to be brave and honest, to create motives and reasons — not just hollow justifications."

Mr. Sayed explained his fervent dedication to the mission of the gathering by citing his lifelong attachment to art, which to him, "is the language of life itself."

"It is a language which is both sweet and ugly," Mr. Sayed said passionately, "which makes us look life in the eye, with sensitivity and purity. It is the blood of life."

Government endorses creation of semi-private oil company

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government has endorsed a recommendation by a ministerial panel to set up a company entrusted with exploration and production of oil and gas in the country with private sector and possibly foreign participation at a later stage.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the endorsement came during a regular meeting of the Council of Ministers. It said a committee of officials from the ministries of planning, finance, industry and trade, and energy and mineral resources was asked to prepare a report on the terms of reference for the proposed company and its feasibility as well as the legal and financial aspects of the entry.

The committee was also asked to define the nature

of participation of the public and private sectors in the venture. Petra said, it did not give more details. The committee is expected to present a working plan for the establishment of the company in 30 days.

Officials sources said it was proposed that the company have a JD20 million capital and that the government retain controlling interest in the entity.

The idea of such an entity was crystallised in 1992, and a government committee was entrusted with studying its feasibility and other related aspects. It was this committee's recommendation that was endorsed by the Council of Ministers as reported by Petra on Saturday.

In the initial stages, the company will have private sector participation from Jordan and then bring in foreign capital from international investors with

technology, according to earlier plans.

Ministry of Planning officials have said that the private sector role in the company will be limited to 49 per cent.

It will be the first Jordanian venture in oil and gas prospecting after the Kingdom's experience in dealing with foreign companies which signed prospecting and production sharing agreements with the government.

At present, only a Korean company is actively involved in oil and gas exploration in the Kingdom. Others who signed agreements have wound down their activities, and some others have already left.

The proposed company, as and when established, will take over most of the seismicological surveys and exploration conducted by the Natural Resources Authority (NRA). The

reasoning behind such a move, officials have explained, is the need to reduce government expenses in the field and to involve private sector capital in such an uncertain area as oil exploration.

NRA teams are working in several areas of Jordan exploring for oil, but little signs have been reported so far of commercial deposits of hydrocarbons in the Kingdom.

Reports in 1992 that exploration work near the Dead Sea had produced commercial oil deposits were denied by officials. But, it is believed that the areas contains good oil deposits.

Jordan's imports of crude oil were worth JD236 million in 1993, and the Kingdom consumed 3,935 million tonnes of oil equivalent for its energy sector during the year; a 4.4 per cent growth over 1992.

CDD puts out Irbid blazes

By Rana Hussein Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Civil Defence Department (CDD) officials are investigating the cause of two separate fires on Saturday in Irbid; one in a sponge factory and the other in an office building.

According to a CDD official, fire units rescued four people trapped in the elevator of Al Andalus building when a fire on the third floor caused a power failure.

The report said the fire, which was extinguished by CDD units, caused extensive damage to the office. Two hours later, a fire broke out in a sponge factory in Al Hassan industrial estate, consuming more than 28 barrels of plastic material.

A CDD official told the Jordan Times that preliminary investigations indicated that the fire was possibly the result of an electrical short circuit in the factory.

He said no one was hurt in either fire, and the CDD is investigating the incidents.

'Arson' in Karak

Three firemen were injured Friday in an alleged case of arson in Karak that destroyed more than 50 dunums of trees and dry weeds during a two-day period, a CDD report said.

A CDD official told the Jordan Times that the Karak fire was most likely set by the same arsonists who started the July 4 fire in Karak that destroyed more than 250 dunums of vegetation.

He said that CDD officials are searching for the arsonists and believe that the motive is tribally related.

Also on Friday, CDD units put out three separate fires in farm lands in Al Araf area in Karak, all suspected of being set at the same time by an arsonist/s.

The fires were under investigation, according to the CDD official.

Canadian business sector shows strong interest in Jordan — JBA

AMMAN (J.T.) — Canadian representatives of the Canada-Jordan Business Council (CJBC) expressed a strong interest in launching close economic cooperation with Jordan in talks held in Montreal and Toronto last month, according to Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) President Hamdi Tabbaa Saturday.

Mr. Tabbaa, who led a 20-member JBA team to the talks with Canadian side, said upon returning to Amman that the Canadian business sector showed its willingness to cooperate with its Jordanian counterparts in industry, transportation, technology transfer, environmental protection, gas exploitation and energy production.

The Jordanian delegation attended the June 27 - 30 meeting in Montreal under the umbrella of the CJBC which was set up last year to promote trade and economic cooperation, said Mr. Tabbaa.

It held more than 50 meetings with representatives of Canadian economic and trade sectors and organisations in Montreal and also



Hamdi Tabbaa

participated in the Arab-Canadian Trade Council annual meeting. Mr. Tabbaa added.

He said the Jordanian side expressed readiness to promote ties with the council and explained the investment climate in the Kingdom and the incentives offered to the investors.

Later, the delegation moved to Toronto where they met with representatives of the business sector there.

According to Mr. Tabbaa, the meeting with the Cana-

dian side resulted in initial agreement on several practical steps to be taken towards implementing joint ventures. He told the Jordan Times that the Canadians are counting on peace to be established and said they are prepared to benefit from Jordan as a centre for various projects after peace is achieved in the area.

Mr. Tabbaa said the Canadian side is convinced that Jordan, which enjoys stability and security and which has the required infrastructure for such business ventures can be the base for future projects benefiting the Kingdom and the region.

Canada currently buys limited amounts of Jordanian phosphate, but the delegation discussed the prospect of selling Jordanian fertilisers as well and explored increasing number of Canadian tourists to the Kingdom, added Mr. Tabbaa.

Some Jordanian pharmaceutical manufacturing companies presented samples of their products in Canada; the drugs were approved and there is the prospect now for exporting medicine there, said Mr. Tabbaa.

Haitian refugee policy in crisis; boat people may pay the price

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — U.S. Coast Guard cutters and navy warships are so overloaded with Haitian refugees that in some cases they cannot take in more boat people who may be in distress, the U.S. embassy said.

Embassy spokesman Stanley Schragger gave a picture of a U.S. refugee policy in total disarray, with American ships stuck with no place to put many of the more than 10,000 boat people who have poured out of Haiti since Monday.

The Coast Guard, in a statement, called the past four days "the busiest period in Coast Guard history."

The refugee nightmare began when President Bill Clinton, responding to increased human rights abuses by Haiti's military and its civilian allies, guaranteed each boat person a hearing at offshore U.S. processing centres. The first centre, off Jamaica, opened on June 16. Since then, more than 18,500 Haitians have been processed by the Coast Guard.

The administration announced Tuesday that only

applicants who go to U.S. processing centres in Haiti have a chance to win asylum in the United States. Washington said those intercepted at sea would be sent to safe havens in third countries if they feared retaliation on their return.

The State Department said Friday that 441 boat people have opted to return to Haiti, apparently undergoing a change of heart after learning the new Clinton policy barred them from resettlement in the United States.

President Clinton suggested an American invasion could very well hinge on the conduct of Haiti's military dictators, who deposed elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1991. "And their conduct has not been good," Mr. Clinton said before the opening of an economic summit in Naples, Italy. "They're in there illegally and they ought to go."

He blamed Haiti's military rulers for unleashing murders, rapes and kidnappings. And he said such abuses, rather than his liberalised asylum policies, had led the refugees to flee Haiti.

Four U.S. warships car-

rying 2,000 Marines are scheduled to reach Haitian waters by Saturday, joining eight other American warships enforcing a U.N. trade embargo on Haiti.

The Clinton administration suffered a major setback Thursday when Panama backed out of a plan to house 10,000 Haitians. Now Washington is scrambling to pressure other countries to accept the boat people.

Two U.S. ships processing refugees off Jamaica are packed and another camp on the British island of Grand Turk won't be open until next week, Mr. Schragger told reporters.

The Caribbean island nations of Antigua, Dominica and Grenada have agreed to take some of the Haitians, although not as many as Panama had agreed to and no date has been set for opening of camps there.

A tent camp at the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba held 12,600 Haitians early Friday and sailors struggled to set up cots for another 2,000 boat people scheduled to be dropped off by day's end, Mr. Schragger said.

In Washington, administration officials said that the camp would be expanded soon to hold up to 20,000 refugees.

The Coast Guard returned 407 Haitians to Port-Au-Prince Friday who were denied asylum at the U.S. processing centre in Guantanamo Bay.

About 3,000 refugees remained on the cutters and American warships off Haiti early Friday, when asked whether that would impair efforts to pick up new boat people, Mr. Schragger responded:

"It does indeed, because if their decks are full then obviously they have to find a place to put these people."

"Clearly the system is overloaded. There are tremendous strains on the system," Mr. Schragger said. "We have an obligation to provide safe haven for these people. I can't say when the system cracks."

Meanwhile the chairman of the U.S. military Joint Chiefs of Staff flew to the American Navy base at Guantanamo Bay Friday to inspect the growing Haitian refugee problem in the area.



Crewmen from the Coast Guard Cutter Diligence pass life jackets to an overloaded boat of Haitian refugees in the Windward Passage off the coast of Haiti. The Coast Guard has intercepted more than 10,000 Haitians fleeing their country by boat in the past week (AFP)

Anti-corruption campaigner set to win in Belarus elections

MINSK (R) — Strident anti-corruption crusader Alexander Lukashenko appeared well placed Saturday to become post-Soviet Belarus's first president but he warned that his Moscow-backed opponent could try to torpedo the vote.

Mr. Lukashenko held a big lead over Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich ahead of Sunday's run-off vote on the country of 10 million sandwiched between Russia and Poland.

The candidates have vied with each other to present themselves as the stronger advocate of an economic and political alliance with Moscow, seen as the salvation for a country hurled into post-soviet economic depression.

Campaigning in the Belarusian capital came to an abrupt halt Saturday after a

bitter campaign in which the two antagonists buried insults at each other.

In the second of two television debates Friday night, Mr. Lukashenko put Mr. Kebich on the defensive with a volley of accusations that the government wanted to scuttle the vote.

"You are spreading lies and slander across the country through government couriers," Mr. Lukashenko boomed at Mr. Kebich, waving one of his opponent's campaign brochures.

"Alexander Grigorievich, you are twisting the facts," the prime minister snapped back during a bizarre debate in which each candidate invited three friendly journalists to the television studio.

Mr. Lukashenko said Mr. Kebich's government had printed an extra million bal-

lot papers to stuff ballot boxes throughout the country.

There were also plans, he said, to pull buses off the roads to keep voters from going to polling stations after their usual Sunday activity of working their garden plots.

"Don't give in to provocations," he urged voters. "We must elect our president on July 10 and put an end to chaos."

An exasperated Kebich retorted that his opponent could only boast of surpassing him in impudence.

Under election rules, the winner must secure more than 50 per cent of the vote and turnout must also be 50 per cent.

Mr. Lukashenko collected 45 per cent of the vote in the first round, compared to 17 per cent for Mr. Kebich.

Central Asian leaders form closer union

ALMA-ATA (R) — Two Central Asian states and Kazakhstan agreed Friday to create a closer economic and military union of 31 million people living in a vast area from China to the east to the Caspian Sea to the west.

"The most important thing is that... we three countries... have created an economic and defence union," Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev told a news conference.

"(This) is only the first step and we will go further but you can only imagine how far that will be," Mr. Nazarbayev said of the accord between Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

Diplomats said the new bloc was partly an attempt to strengthen the ex-Soviet region's bargaining power with Russia and partly a move to pool economic resources in a crisis.

The union, a first stage of which was signed earlier this year, covers an area with a nuclear arsenal, vast oil and gas resources, wheat and cotton surpluses and considerable conventional weapons.

Under the agreement, a new inter-state committee composed of presidents and prime ministers of the three countries will oversee a gradual standardisation in laws.

Mr. Nazarbayev said the three republics would forge common defence strategies and to equip hardware in one country with spare parts from another.

A new Central Asian bank for cooperation and development, capitalised at an initial \$9 million, would be formed within one month to attract foreign investments.

Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov said Kazakhstan should chair all inter-state committees for one year. The chairmanship would then rotate to Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

The inter-state committees would include one on defence, one on foreign affairs and one of prime ministers. The committees would be responsible for coordinating policies for credit, budget, taxation, prices, money, investments and licensing.

Customs tariffs and taxes have already been abolished between the three states.

Diplomats said relations between Russia and Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan had soured over the last two years. They said the union was aimed at diluting economic dependence on Russia and thereby reducing Moscow's power.

Mr. Nazarbayev said the region was self-sufficient in

wheat, cotton, meat, energy and many other commodities but the economies of each country were over-specialised.

"Why should Uzbekistan grow wheat if we have more experience, better experts and better conditions?" he asked.

He said the union was open for other members of the post-Soviet Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to join. The difference between this union and the CIS is that "these undertakings will be fulfilled," the president said.

But divisions appeared to remain between Uzbekistan, the region's most populous country with more than 21 million people, and the other two in the union.

Mr. Karimov told reporters that he did not support a proposal which has become Mr. Nazarbayev's pet project — a Euro-Asian Union along the lines of the 12-nation European Union.

"Of course we have similar opinions and of course we have differences. We do not deny that," Mr. Karimov said.

"We should not create a Euro-Asian framework and then fit reality into it. It has to happen naturally when our interests are in common."

Colombia protests U.S. attempts to meddle in Bogota's drug war

BOGOTA (AFP) — Colombia denounced what it called U.S. meddling in its efforts to battle cocaine trafficking in response to a warning from Washington that Bogota must step up the war on drugs.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the government would continue to deal with the problem on its own and would resist any outside pressures or actions.

The angry reaction was in response to a letter from the State Department, which routinely sends such communications to countries where drug trafficking is rampant.

But officials here said the letter questioned Colombia's commitment to battling cocaine traffickers, who ship some 70 per cent of their production to the United

States.

President Bill Clinton can cut off aid to countries which are reviewed annually if he is not convinced they are taking enough measures to fight the drug war. Colombia is up for review in April.

"The government reiterated its traditional policy of complete autonomy in these affairs" in response to the U.S. letter, said the Foreign Ministry statement.

"We affirmed that we have not accepted nor will accept our anti-narcotics policies to be the result of interference, pressures or unfriendly actions from any country."

Earlier, President Cesar Gaviria acknowledged that U.S.-Colombian relations were going through a difficult time and noted that the United States was among the world's biggest drug consum-

ing countries.

Washington has charged that Mr. Gaviria is soft on drug traffickers in reaction to his policy of offering lenient sentences to those who surrender, and earlier this year it suspended an intelligence sharing programme with Bogota.

The latest hitch came when Ernesto Samper, the winner of the June 19 presidential elections, was accused of accepting campaign funds from the Cali drug cartel after a taped telephone call allegedly between drug lords and campaign workers was turned over to authorities.

Earlier this week, Colombia's Attorney General Gustavo De Grief charged that the taped call could have been a U.S. attempt to discredit Colombia's war on drugs.

Clinton declares emergency in Florida flood areas

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton declared an emergency in Florida and designated disaster areas in Alabama, making the flood-stricken areas eligible for federal assistance.

The White House said in a statement that the move was made "in anticipation of, and immediately preceding the predicted flooding" in Florida, where high waters have already closed highways on the panhandle.

Eight flood-stricken counties were declared disaster areas in Alabama, where one death was reported Friday.

Mr. Clinton, who is in Naples for the Group of Seven summit, declared federal disaster areas Thursday in Georgia, where the death toll from the five days of flooding has risen to 23.

Friday's casualties included two children who were killed when the car they were riding in plunged off a bridge into a raging river. Four people have also gone missing in the southern state.

The surging Flint River spilled over homes and highways, forcing residents to race for higher ground as caskets floated in cemeteries. Huge sections of central and southern Georgia remained submerged Friday in a sea of muddy flood waters.

Four straight days of rain — the remnants of tropical storm Alberto — have left 300,000 without safe drinking water and caused more than \$111 million in damages.

Bangladesh Muslim groups unite to press for feminist writer's death

DHAKA (R) — Thirteen Muslim groups Saturday formed a council to intensify their push for the death of feminist writer Taslima Nasrin for alleged insults to Islam.

"One of our prime objectives would be to press for severe punishment of all mutants (renegades) including Taslima Nasrin," said Anwar Zahid, one of the council leaders.

"The council pledged to continue their movement through united programmes against all anti-Islamic forces and for enactment of a blasphemy law," a council statement said.

Headed by Maulana Ubaidul Huq, the Khateeb (head priest) of Dhaka's biggest mosque, Baitul Mokarram, the council also demanded that the small Qadiani sect should be declared non-Muslim.

The Qadianis have been declared non-Muslims by many Islamic countries, including Pakistan, for preaching that the Prophet Mohammad was not Islam's last prophet.

Nasrin, a doctor-turned-writer in her early 30s, became the object of Muslim fury after the Bangladesh Times reprinted on June 4 an article in India's Statesman

newspaper that quoted her as saying Islam's holy book, the Koran, should be "revised thoroughly."

Nasrin later said she was misquoted but that failed to pacify her foes. Amid raging protests against her alleged remarks, a Muslim fundamentalist leader offered a 100,000 taka (\$2,500) reward for her death on charges of insulting Islam. She is now in hiding.

Other Islamic leaders have also called for her death. Earlier she outraged Muslims by endorsing free choice in sexual matters and opposing marriage.

Crimea backs Kuchma in Ukraine vote

SIMFEROPOL, Ukraine (R) — Ukraine's pro-Russian Crimean peninsula is backing Leonid Kuchma in presidential elections on the assumption that he can get the region what it wants — reunification with Russia.

By rights, Crimea's 2.7 million mainly ethnic Russian residents would love to ignore Sunday's run-off vote pitting Mr. Kuchma against incumbent Leonid Kravchuk.

But Crimea's status as part of post-Soviet Ukraine and reliance on it for economic help mean purse strings linking Crimea to Kiev are stronger than heart strings tugging it to Moscow.

Local leaders have been backing Mr. Kuchma for months, banking on his call for economic union between Ukraine and Russia to move them towards their goal.

"The most acceptable president for Crimea is, of course, Leonid Kuchma," said Sergei Nikulin, head of the Russian Faction in the local parliament.

"We have had enough of people who destroyed the Soviet Union. It is time to create and Kuchma is a good organiser."

Mr. Kuchma won 83 per cent of the first-round vote last month in Crimea. Mr. Kravchuk, regarded with scorn by most local politi-

cians, got seven per cent. In national terms, Mr. Kravchuk held a 37-31 per cent lead over his opponent.

Crimeans elected Yuri Meshkov, a Russian nationalist, as their first president in January and two months later returned a parliament whose members make little effort to hide their desire to join Russia.

Negotiations to broaden Crimean autonomy ran into trouble in May over the local parliament's restoration of a 1992 constitution providing for a treaty to govern relations with Ukraine and separate security forces.

Ukraine denounced the constitution as separatist. Viktor Minin, a top minister in Mr. Meshkov's cabinet, said the Crimean president told Mr. Kuchma during the campaign: "You are our best hope. If not for you, I don't know what will happen."

Mr. Kuchma insists that Crimea must remain a part of Ukraine but also said the region's people should have a say in their future. He also favours offering Russia a lease on the naval base in Sevastopol, headquarters of the Black Sea Fleet, still subject to an ownership dispute between Russia and Ukraine.

Mr. Kravchuk insists that constitutional order must be upheld and he made Crimea into a campaign issue, accus-

ing Mr. Kuchma of being willing to give away a chunk of Ukrainian territory.

"Where in the world will you find a presidential candidate already giving away national territory, who says it is up to the people to decide what will happen," he told officers this week.

Mr. Meshkov won office on promises of rejoining Russia, which ran Crimea until 1954 when Nikita Khrushchev gave the peninsula to Ukraine as "a gift."

Mr. Meshkov promised pensioners cast into poverty by hyper-inflation that Crimea would soon have relatively stable Russian rubles in circulation.

The reality that Ukraine provides most of Crimea's water, fuel and farm subsidies has prompted Crimean authorities to put on hold any move closer to Moscow. Russia's less than enthusiastic reaction has also made them draw back.

Crimea's minorities, 600,000 ethnic Ukrainians and 250,000 Crimean Tatars who have returned home 50 years after being expelled by Josef Stalin, are backing Mr. Kravchuk.

"If Kuchma comes to power all the effort spent on coming to an understanding with Kravchuk will be for naught," said Mustafa Dzhe-milov, a senior Tatar leader.

At least 1 killed in Brazil jailbreak gunbattle

SAO PAULO (R) — A jail breakout by armed Brazilian prisoners holding hostages late Friday turned into a running gunbattle with police that left at least one officer dead and others wounded, a police spokesman said.

Journalists at the scene in the southern city of Porto Alegre reported that three prisoners were also shot dead, but police did not immediately confirm this.

"There was a shoot-out," military police Captain Claudio Afonso told Reuters from Porto Alegre.

The shooting erupted in the streets of the city after the nine fleeing prisoners holding eight hostages at gunpoint drove out of the city's central prison in three cars provided by local authorities.

The prisoners had demanded the escape vehicles to make their getaway after holding a group of 24 hostages captive inside the prison hospital since Thursday afternoon. The hostages had included the director of the prison hospital and other staff, including several women.

One of the ring-leaders of the rebellion, convicted drug trafficker Dionelcio Melara, fled with a hostage into a luxury hotel in the city centre, where he was surrounded by police. Guests were evacuated.



An unidentified prisoner (left) of the Central Penitentiary of Porto Alegre, Brazil, holds an unidentified hostage and points a weapon while talking to police from a window at the prison's infirmary (AFP photo)

Police officers were negotiating with Melara to try to persuade him to surrender and release the hostage.

The other hostages were reported freed by police.

Capt. Afonso said one policeman was shot dead in exchanges of gunfire after dozens of police vehicles moved to corner the fleeing cars, which split up and headed in different directions. The prisoners were armed with revolvers and

men out to follow, saying the prisoners had threatened to kill the eight hostages if this happened.

Since the rebellion began, heavily armed police have surrounded the jail, the biggest in Brazil's most southern state of Rio Grande do Sul.

Escape attempts and riots are common in Brazil's jails, which have been criticised by international human rights groups for poor conditions, overcrowding and frequent violence.

Cambodian students fail anti-corruption drive

PHNOM PENH (R) — The pass rate for Cambodian students sitting their main school exams has plummeted to just over four per cent following an anti-corruption drive, the Cambodian Daily newspaper reported Friday. Only 4.2 per cent of students passed this year's secondary school exams compared with 70 to 80 per cent in previous years, it said, linking the dramatic rise in failures to a crackdown launched by education authorities concerned about cheating. The crackdown had been aimed mainly at underpaid teachers who were giving pass marks in return for bribes from students, the newspaper said.

Cop to face police discipline for nude photos

NEW YORK (AFP) — The New York Police Department announced Friday it will bring charges against a female officer who posed nude for Playboy magazine. Catol Shaya, who appeared on the front cover of the most recent issue of Playboy, will be charged with three counts of professional misconduct, said police spokesman John Miller. Ms. Shaya failed to obtain written authorisation from her superiors to perform work outside her police duties, used her uniform while not in service, and cited the name of her police station for personal profit, the spokesman said. The young woman was to receive \$75,000 — more than her annual officer's salary — for the photographs, the Daily News reported. Ms. Shaya is at risk of dismissal, but a police source said the department is not considering such action at the moment, preferring a financial penalty instead. Female members of the Police Endowment Association have condemned their colleague's actions. "We commend the department's decision to render charges against Shaya, who has exhibited a lack of professionalism and disdain for her shield," said association Vice President Stefanie Rich. Ms. Shaya's father, Yasset Hamdan, is a Muslim traditionalist living in Israel. After divorcing his Greek Orthodox wife, he lost touch with his daughter, then two years old. "If I knew her phone number, all I would say is shame on you," Hamdan told an Israeli newspaper.

But divisions appeared to remain between Uzbekistan, the region's most populous country with more than 21 million people, and the other two in the union.

Mr. Karimov told reporters that he did not support a proposal which has become Mr. Nazarbayev's pet project — a Euro-Asian Union along the lines of the 12-nation European Union.

"Of course we have similar opinions and of course we have differences. We do not deny that," Mr. Karimov said.

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U.N. coaxes Bosnian federation to renew truce

SARAJEVO (R) — U.N. envoy Yasushi Akashi renewed efforts Saturday to persuade Bosnian Muslims and Croats to join Serbs in prolonging their ceasefire for another month.

He flew from Sarajevo to Mostar to meet representatives of the Muslim-Croat federation to discuss an extension of the current four-week truce which expires at 0959 GMT Sunday.

Bosnian Serbs have agreed to a longer ceasefire while all three sides in the 27-month conflict assess an international plan which does not entirely satisfy any of them.

But Mr. Akashi has reached only partial agreement with the Muslim-Croat alliance and told reporters Friday: "There is a large measure of agreement, but to put it on paper is rather more difficult."

Limited fighting has continued in central Bosnia between Serbs and the Muslim-led Bosnian government army, and between rival Muslim forces in the north-west Bihac pocket, throughout the ceasefire.

The peace plan devised by Western powers and Russia would give 51 per cent of the former Yugoslav republic to the federation and the rest to Serbs who would lose 20 per cent of the territory they now hold.

Although Bosnian Serbs are cool to the plan, the leader Radovan Karadzic told Mr. Akashi Friday his side was ready to continue the ceasefire.

"We expressed readiness to continue with self-restraint and we expressed our hope that we may be approaching peace. We are particularly concerned to maintain peace in Sarajevo," he added.

Despite the plan's flaws, international leaders including President Bill Clinton have insisted it is a reasonable basis for ending the conflict that has cost around 200,000 lives and left much of the country in ruins.

With the world's patience clearly thinning, neither the federation nor the Serbs want to be seen to be first to sabotage the peace initiative.

Serbs face the threat that if they resist the deal, a U.N. arms embargo that crippled the Muslims' ability to defend themselves or counter-attack earlier in the conflict could be lifted.

Unions threaten 'action' if Abiola not freed by July 19

LAGOS (AFP) — Nigeria's trade union organisation set a July 19 deadline for the military regime to release pro-democracy leader Moshood Abiola and all political prisoners and halt proceedings taken against them, its president Pascal Bafyau said Saturday.

The organisation, the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), would order "appropriate action" if the deadline was not met, he said.

"In order to save our country from imminent social, economic and political paralysis, strife and decay, the NLC is compelled to serve

Cosmonauts return to earth

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia's Soyuz TM-18 spaceship touched earth in Kazakhstan Saturday carrying two cosmonauts back from a six-month stay on the Mir orbiting station, ITAR-TASS agency said. Viktor Afanasiev, commander of the mission launched Jan. 8, and engineer Yuri Usachev, landed at 1033 GMT about 100 kilometres from the central city of Arkalik. The Russian space flight

Murayama hospitalised, skips summit session

NAPLES, Italy (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama missed the morning session of the Group of Seven economic summit Saturday after he was hospitalised for intestinalitis.

"Since last night, Prime Minister Murayama has been receiving care at a hospital in Naples," Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Sonoda said.

"He is thought to have acute intestinalitis," said Mr. Sonoda, who visited Mr. Murayama at midnight Friday. The Japanese leader, in office just over a week, did not attend the morning session of the summit with leaders of the United States, Germany, Britain, France, Italy, Japan and Canada.

The 70-year-old Murayama was represented in morning meetings by Deputy Prime Minister Yohsei Kono, who is

U.N. envoy presses for ceasefire in Rwanda



The head of the Rwanda refugee camp seven kilometres south of Gikongoro distributes French C-rations bread to Rwandan children. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe warned of a catastrophic humanitarian situation in Rwanda and said 500 tonnes of food aid a day were needed particularly in the west of the country (AFP photo)

Rwanda's 2nd town fell to rebels without fight

BUTARE, Rwanda (R) — Rebels who seized Rwanda's second largest town Butare with little resistance from government troops loomed at the main hotel Saturday while 1,000 civilians in a sports stadium waited word on their future.

Butare's shops have been looted and the main street is full of debris. But journalists who visited under rebel escort saw no signs of battle, no bullet-marked houses or mortar bomb blasts.

Captain Thonest Rurangwa, who led a rebel brigade into the town, told reporters: "We met no resistance. The campaign to take Butare lasted two days and then the enemy scattered."

He said four main government army camps — two which had 500 soldiers each, a third with a battalion and an officer cadet training

school — round the town did not put up a fight when the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) fighters walked in Monday.

Japanese, U.S. forces on alert, Kyodo says

TOKYO (R) — Japan's military and U.S. forces in the country were placed on a "pre-emergency" alert Saturday after the death of North Korean President Kim Il-Sung, Kyodo News Agency reported.

Japan's military intelligence has not detected any unusual moves by military forces in North Korea but will keep a close watch over developments, Kyodo said.

Kyodo said U.S. forces in Japan, mostly air force, navy and Marine Corps units, had been placed on a form of alert short of emergency military status.

In May 1993, Japan's Defence Ministry was caught unaware by a U.S. report that North Korea had test-fired a ballistic missile on the Sea of Japan.

Since then, it has been listening to North Korea's military radio and other signals transmissions around the clock.

"There are no unusual developments, such as a sudden increase in North Korean military radio transmissions," Kyodo quoted an unnamed ministry source as saying. "But we fear that the situa-

tion on the Korean peninsula could become very unstable because there are doubts over the strength of Kim Jono-Il's grip on power," the source said.

Last month, North Korea threatened reprisals against Japan if it supported sanctions over its suspected nuclear programme.

"If Japan... should take the van or be inveigled or join forces in any 'sanctions' against us, we would regard it as a declaration of war and Japan would be unable to evade a deserving punishment for it," the ministry said.

A highly-placed government security source in Tokyo told Reuters that the Stalinist state had the means to do it, with missiles or by terrorist attacks by the estimated 600 North Korean agents inside Japan.

North Korea has denied it possesses nuclear weapons but has said it is developing ballistic missiles.

In the event of hostilities, U.S. military bases in Japan would be prime targets for attacks, the Japanese source said.

them to be brought to justice. Aid workers say the government, having lost the capital last Monday and two thirds of the country to the RPF, has no leverage in negotiations. The RPF says it will talk directly only with government army commanders instead of ministers.

"They (the government) will either give in to rebel demands and surrender or risk being driven out of the small area remaining under government control," a foreign aid worker said.

Both warring parties say any political settlement must be based on peace accords signed by the two sides last August in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha.

Under the accords brokered by the Organisation of African Unity, they agreed to power-sharing, integration of their armies and free and fair elections after a two-year transition period.

The accords were never implemented because of wrangles between opposition parties and President Juvenal Habyarimana, whose assassination on April 6 sparked renewed civil war and the massacres.

Mr. Habyarimana died in a rocket attack on his plane in which the president of neighbouring Burundi was also killed. Both presidents were Hutus.

Meanwhile, French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur Saturday said he would give a "clear explanation" of French policy in war-torn Rwanda to the U.N. Security Council Monday, as a U.N. envoy arrived in neighbouring Zaire to push forward the political process.

French officials have said the military situation has "stabilised" in Rwanda this week and that there were encouraging signs for a ceasefire, after three months of war and ethnic bloodletting that has killed up to half a million and displaced an estimated two million others.

The RPF holds the government responsible for the massacres.

The government sees the RPF as a "group-bent on recapturing Tutsi political and economic power over the Hutu majority. The Tutsis were traditionally feudal overlords of Hutu peasants."

The RPF has two main demands before a ceasefire — an end to the massacres across the country and a halt to radio broadcasts from government-held territory inciting tribal slaughter.

It also wants officials and military officers accused of inciting killings or ordering

Mr. Balladur announced in a statement Friday he would go to New York, with Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, to plea that French troops in Rwanda be relieved by the end of the month — in line with the July 31 deadline Paris set for getting out of Rwanda.

The RPF opposes the French mission and moderate Hutu leader Faustin Twagiramungu, who has been asked by the RPF to head a new national unity government, said Thursday French troops should leave by the end of the month.

Rebel leaders have warned France against protecting government troops or interfering in Rwandan affairs.

Amid the controversy, Paris has not succeeded in obtaining support from the international community for its U.N.-authorised mission, condemned Operatinn Turquoise, which this week set up a humanitarian zone in the southwest to protect waves of mainly Hutu refugees.

On Saturday, Mr. Balladur told reporters that in New York he would "explain very clearly" (French) policy in Rwanda" and would ask the Security Council to do the same.

To "apply all possible pressure" to bring in reinforcements, as planned, to build up the U.N. Assistance Mission (UNAMIR) now in Rwanda, and to "instigate" relief organisations to go into safety zones set up by France.

Mr. Balladur justified France's military intervention, saying it had not been motivated by a desire to "interfere in the internal problems" of Rwanda but to "inject a political and human context into a French-speaking environment."

The French leader said that "conditions" he set down for the intervention had been "perfectly respected," including its strictly humanitarian aim and avoiding any part in internal conflict.

A French official Friday night had said France was facing an influx of nearly one million people into its safety zone in the southwest.

U.N. refugee officials have described the humanitarian situation in Rwanda as desperate with thousands facing starvation after three months of war.



Rwandan government soldiers wait outside Butare earlier this week for orders prior to a counterattack on advancing Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) forces. The RPF now controls most of the country (AFP photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Berlusconi's brother to stand trial

MILAN, Italy (R) — A judge Saturday ordered 19 people, including Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's brother Paolo, to stand trial on corruption charges, judicial sources said. Also among those whom Judge Italo Gritti ordered to stand trial on charges relating to alleged bribes paid on property deals with Italy's biggest savings bank were former Socialist Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and Severino Citaristi, former treasurer of the ex-Christian Democrat Party. The order for a trial to be held follows an investigation centring on property deals with the pension fund of savings bank Cassa Di Risparmio Delle Province Lombarde (CARIPLO). Prosecutors have alleged that 14 billion lire (\$8.2 million) of bribes were paid to Mr. Craxi's disgraced Socialist Party and the Christian Democrats.

U.S. AIDS policy coordinator quits

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. official in charge of coordinating policy on AIDS, Kristine Gebbie, who has been the target of numerous attacks, announced her resignation Friday, a year after taking up the job. Ms. Gebbie, who was appointed in June 1993 by President Bill Clinton, said she had had to deal with "conflicting expectations" on policy over acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). She said her successor "must have the tools necessary" to win the confidence of sufferers. Accepting her resignation, Mr. Clinton said Ms. Gebbie had given a momentum to the fight against AIDS and "more will be done." Her critics have accused her of foot-dragging. The homosexual movement Act-Up called on Mr. Clinton to find someone "strong and aggressive" to replace her and stressed the urgency of "strong, decisive leadership."

Police find bomb at Milan bourse

MILAN (R) — Police said Saturday they had defused a home-made bomb placed outside the Milan Stock Exchange during the night. The bomb did not explode and there were no injuries. The bomb was made of a pressure cooker filled with explosive liquid, a battery and a timer. The device was hidden in a travel bag on the steps of the bourse in central Milan. It was found hours after the start of the Group of Seven summit of rich nations in Naples.

Filmmaker Christian-Jaque dies

PARIS (AFP) — French filmmaker Christian-Jaque, a veteran producer of almost 70 hit screen movies, died of a heart attack Friday at his Paris home, his family said. He was 89. Christian-Jaque — real name Christian Maude — collapsed shortly before lunch and failed to regain consciousness. Born in Paris, he began his career with 1932. He made his last film, *Carne, the Man With the Camera*, in 1985. Other films in a career spanning 50 years included the 1951 production, *Barbe Bleue* (Blue Beard), with Pierre Brasseur, and the 1959 movie, *Babette S'en Va En Guerre* (Babette Goes To War), starring Brigitte Bardot.

Train bomb kills 2 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AFP) — A parcel bomb exploded inside a passenger train in north-central Sri Lanka Saturday, killing two people and wounding at least 15 others, railway officials said. The blast went off at Anuradhapura, 205 kilometres (128 miles) north of here, officials said adding that the train was on its way from the capital Colombo to the northern town of Vavuniya. "There was not much damage to (the) train compartment. So the bomb could not have been very powerful. Otherwise more people would have died," a railway official said. It was not immediately clear who was responsible for the attack but security forces have often blamed such explosions on the separatist Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Most of the island's northern region beyond Vavuniya is under LTTE control.

China floods claim 1,410 lives

BEIJING (AFP) — The death toll in the worst flooding to hit southern China this century has reached 1,410 since May, as four more died in the fifth tropical storm to hit Guangdong province in a week. China daily said Saturday. The storm sparked the second floods to ravage the provincial cities of Yangjiang and Naoming in a month, and a further two people are still missing, the newspaper said, adding that heavy downpours in the past few days had also caused houses to collapse and rivers to burst their banks. By the end of June, heavy storms and floods in the provinces of Guangdong, Guangxi, Hunan, Jiangxi, Zhejiang and Fujian, had affected more than 85.5 million people, flattened 1.2 million houses and caused direct economic losses of more than 53.6 billion yuan (\$6.23 billion). Economic losses in the last week alone in Guangdong, where some 365 factories and mines were forced to suspend operations, were estimated at 980 million yuan, the newspaper said. The State Flood-Control Headquarters has warned all provinces to guard against further flooding.

Li skips another event in Germany

TEGERNSEE, Germany (R) — Chinese Premier Li Peng again avoided confrontation with human rights protesters by cancelling a scheduled boat trip on an Alpine lake in Bavaria. Unlike the big rallies that led him to cancel parts of his itinerary in Berlin and Weimar Thursday, only five or six demonstrators showed up at a pier on the Tegernsee lake where Mr. Li was to board his boat. A Bavarian state government spokesman said Mr. Li had not given any reason for remaining in Munich, where he is staying at the Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten, the city's most expensive, instead of taking the boat trip. It was the fourth time in three days that Mr. Li had either cancelled or left events where he encountered protests. He walked out of a dinner in Berlin late Wednesday, then cancelled a stroll through the Brandenburg Gate and cut short a visit to Weimar Thursday.

Jordan Times

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Time to address refugee issue

THE DECISION to hold a four-party meeting on the Palestinian refugees including Israel, the PLO, Egypt and Jordan is a step in the right direction provided that Lebanon and Syria also join such negotiations as soon as possible. Given the fact that Syria and Lebanon are also important host countries for the Palestinian refugees, it would seem appropriate to have both represented in the talks on how to resolve the problem in accordance with relevant international resolutions.

Granted that Jordan stands out among the other host countries with regard to the Palestinians exiled in the aftermath of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, the other category of displaced people who were evicted from Palestine as a consequence of the 1947-48 hostilities, is also heavily concentrated in Syria and Lebanon as well. It would seem necessary therefore that at one stage or another both types of Palestinian refugees be dealt with no matter where they happen to be domiciled for the time being.

The second issue in this vein is the criteria on the basis of which the parties concerned should resort to in the process of finding a just and lasting legal resolution to the entire problem. Israel so far seems to have yielded with regard to the post-1967 refugees but has flatly rejected any repatriation of the first wave of Palestinian refugees. What Israel wishes and says, however, is something and what the international law stipulates is another. There is always the 1948 U.N. General Assembly resolution that calls for the return of 1948 refugees to their homeland. Israel has repeatedly dismissed any possibility for the implementation of that first ever U.N. decision on the Palestinians who were forced out of Palestine. Perhaps it would be farfetched to expect Israel to accept the return of those refugees to Israel, but it must not be allowed to refuse their return to the new Palestinian entity, especially if the economy of the Palestinian state is assisted in earnest in a bid to transform the area into an economically viable territory.

It cannot be expected that the Palestinian refugees whether from 1948 or 1967 would all opt to go back to their original homes and land. Not more than 40 to 50 per cent would probably choose to return. The rest would probably stay put where they are. The West Bank can accommodate a good number of the refugees provided the infrastructure of the Palestinian self-rule area is consolidated on all levels. Those refugees who will ultimately be settled in their host countries should be duly compensated in accordance with U.N. resolutions.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NOW THAT the war in Yemen has ended, the Yemeni leaders and people have no alternative but to take stock of what has happened and immediately seek to enhance internal unity, said Al Ra'i daily Saturday. The paper said that apart from the thousands killed by the fighting, a great deal of economic infrastructure has been devastated, rendering many Yemenis in a state of want. The time has come for taking a deep breath and also learning a hard lesson so that matters can be put back in their right perspective, the paper added. It cautioned Yemeni leaders in Sana'a to avert acts of retaliation and revenge, appealing for tolerance and reconciliation. The paper said that reason must prevail and dialogue should be the tool for attaining reconciliation so that national unity can be preserved. What should be started now, said the paper, is a reconstruction process but that cannot be achieved without reconciliation and a show of mutual respect and good brotherly feelings between the people of the same nation.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily expressed surprise over reports calling for the convening of the Palestine National Council in Gaza to discuss amendments to the Palestine National Charter. Mahmoud Rimawi said that the Palestinian leadership ought to hold general elections and then let the people's representatives decide on any changes in the charter after the Israeli troops have withdrawn from the occupied Palestinian lands. It is more important for the Palestinian authority in the self-rule areas to create opportune circumstances for electing a parliament inside the occupied territories rather than calling a meeting of the Palestine National Council, whose members were never elected, to decide on the charter or any other matter concerning the future of the Palestinian people, said Mr. Rimawi.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Faeed Faneek

The reduction of income inequality

ONE OF the declared objectives of all Jordanian economic and social development plans is the reduction of disparity among governorates and the inequality of income among individuals and families. Most likely, this objective of fair distribution of the fruits of development was consistently adopted for local consumption purposes as a public relations slogan which sounds nice from political and social standpoints.

The surprise is that Jordan was in fact progressing in this desirable direction. After all, it is not true that the rich were becoming richer and the poor poorer, and that the middle class is melting down and joining the camp of the poor, etc. as we were repeatedly told by bankrupt politicians looking for popularity while lacking any evidence to substantiate their empty claims, taking advantage of the fact that it is difficult to prove that they are wrong.

Atheel Abdul Jabbar Jomard, a well-known Iraqi economist and a professor of economics at the University of Al Moussel, devoted much of his time to study, in-depth, certain aspects of the Jordanian economy and society. Dr. Jomard kindly furnished me with a copy of his 20 page research paper titled "The Economic Development and Income Distribution in Jordan". The researcher assessed the achievement of the above mentioned target of development in Jordan. He relied mainly on data collected by two comprehensive surveys on household income and expenditure, the first was conducted in 1980 and the second in 1987. Three indices of inequality, Gini, Kuznets and Thiel, were then applied. Besides, two indices of economic welfare, suggested by Chenery and Loehr were also used. All indices pointed in one direction.

The research of Dr. Jomard established that inequality in the distribution of income among Jordanian families and individuals was reduced substantially, and that disparity between urban and rural areas was lowered considerably. These results reflected improvement in the economic

welfare of the Jordanian population.

The study is very technical. It is full of complicated econometric formulas. However, we shall highlight some of the meaningful conclusions, figures and ratios calculated by the researcher:

During the period 1980-1987 the overall annual average rate of economic growth in the country as a whole was 4.1 per cent. In contrast, the growth rate was 13.2 per cent per annum to the lowest 20 per cent of the population, and 3.1 per cent to the highest 20 per cent, an indication that economic growth favoured the poor who benefited most from the fruits of economic development.

The share of the richest 5 per cent of the population used to be 20.9 per cent of the generated income in the country in 1980. It rose in absolute figures but declined relatively to 16.4 per cent in 1987. The poorest 5 per cent of the population used to take 0.3 per cent of the overall income in 1980. Their share improved not only in absolute figures but also in relative terms to 1.28 per cent in 1987.

Dr. Jomard found that the variation in income is larger in the cities and towns than in the countryside. The reduction of inequality among the governorates and in the country as a whole during the period 1980-1987, was narrowed by various rates ranging around 30 per cent.

This is the real picture based on surveys and proper scientific analysis, a picture that gives credit to Jordan and its economic and social management. The illustration of this picture should encourage the economic decision-makers to push ahead and achieve more of the growth, coupled with fair distribution.

Those who seek political advantage by throwing mud on the face of Jordan, and promote the spread of poverty as their stock in trade, may continue to look for black spots and invent them when they don't find them. They can deny achievements and ignore successes, but they lack any evidence or serious research to support their false claims.

M. KAHIL



Saleh emerges as sole strongman, faces tough task

By Assem Abdel Mohsen
Reuters

SANAA — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, after crushing a breakaway bid by the South, now faces the tough task of healing the wounds of two months of civil war, political and diplomatic sources said Friday.

The soldier turned politician also needs to mend ties with nervous neighbours, some of whom hoped to see him go, or at least to be weakened at home, the sources said.

President Saleh's victory over his southern rival Ali Salem Al Beidh, with whom he led firmer North and South Yemen into merger in 1990, could give him greater confidence to honour pledges of loosening central government authority — a principal demand of his opponents before the war started on May 4.

But the immediate task

would be to reconstruct war-damaged areas, especially in the South, and rebuild confidence in the shattered economy, the sources said.

"Saleh has a unique opportunity to try to rebuild a modern state now that he has emerged as his country's undisputed leader, at least temporarily," said a diplomat.

"He is now in a position to win most of his former enemies, form a strong government, foster national unity and turn a new page," one opposition source said.

"But the question is, will he do that or resort to the pre-war tactics," he asked in reference to Mr. Saleh's reputed penchant for intrigue.

In a victory speech on Thursday, Mr. Saleh said "the country at this stage is in need more than any time before of tolerance, national unity and the turning of a

new page."

Mr. Beidh's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) is still, at least in theory, a partner in a coalition government with Mr. Saleh's General Peoples Congress and the Islamist Islah Party of parliamentary speaker Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al Ahmar.

Mr. Saleh repeatedly said during the war, which ended on Thursday, that he was not against the YSP but against Mr. Beidh and 15 other supporters whose names are on a wanted list.

"Saleh needs the YSP now more than any time before to balance any attempt by Islah to become his sole partner," a political source said.

But it was not immediately clear if "pro-unity" YSP leaders who apparently resisted Mr. Saleh's courtship during the war would now be ready to join his administration.

The source said Mr. Saleh "will resist any attempt, especially by Islah, to rob him of the political and military victory he is convinced in, and is expected to keep Islah in check."

Opposition sources hoped Mr. Saleh would soon broaden the cabinet, crippled for most of the past year by the differences that eventually led to the war, to include opposition parties and independents in addition to the three partners.

"A strong, national unity government is what the country needs to heal social and political wounds. The war has created serious political and social cracks, and only such a government will be able to heal them," one opposition source said.

Sana'a has throughout the war maintained that secessionist leaders were encouraged and supported by

Experts warn Japan must face up to new defence risks

By Pierre-Antoine Donnet
Agence France Presse

TOKYO — Japan must adapt to new defence risks posed by an increasingly complex world which is forcing major changes on the army, a group of experts examining the country's future defence policy has warned.

The 10-member advisory panel's report, which will be submitted to the new Socialist Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama at the end of the month, will help outline the nature and goals of Tokyo's defence into the next century.

"With the end of the cold war, the world is now dominated by uncertainty and unpredictability. Japan and its armed forces must devote more efforts to adapt to this new situation," said Akio Watanabe, a panel member and professor at the University of Aoyama.

The report has been compiled reckoning on a stable defence budget and taking into account the expected difficulties in military recruitment over the next few years, he told AFP.

"We need to economise both in terms of money and people," he said.

The panel will recommend a reduction in the number of soldiers and weaponry in the "Self-Defence Force", a term coined after Japan's defeat at the end of World War II.

It will suggest cutting the number of conventional arms such as tanks, which were meant to repel an invasion of Japan, a scenario which has become increasingly unlikely since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

But the experts say the future lies in a more flexible and mobile defence force, better coordination between the army, navy and air force, and greater reliance on intelligence information, Mr. Watanabe said.

The panel — made up of academics, business leaders and former defence officials — was established last year by then premier Morihiro Hosokawa to review the 1976 National Defence Programme Outline.

In a cabinet meeting Thursday, the new director general of Japan's Defence Agency, Tokuchiro Tamazawa, said the country would keep its post-war pacifist constitution and would never become a military superpower.

With the end of the cold war, defence risks have altered, especially in the Asia-Pacific region where rapid economic growth and the lack of regional security mechanisms have raised fears of possible instability and crises.

Mr. Watanabe believes that state of affairs "compels Japan to be more concerned by these security questions for the time being."

In addition, Japan must "get more actively involved" in international issues, especially in Asia where it should seek bilateral and multilateral dialogue with its neighbours, he said.

The panel is adamant that Japan should remain a non-nuclear power, with the U.S. nuclear shield provided since the end of World War II still, "for the moment", playing an indispensable part in that strategy, he said.

The advisory panel's chairman Hirofumi Higuchi was quoted by the Japan Times newspaper as saying that he believed potential conflicts in Asia and the proliferation of mass-destruction arms posed "threats" equal to those of the cold war era to Japan.

Despite its pacifist constitution, Japan's military has undergone a rapid modernisation process, with its defence budget oscillating between the fourth and seventh largest in the world, and gaining the reputation of having the best conventional army in Asia.

But the country's defence programme has been affected by spending cuts, with the 1994 budget registering its smallest increase in 34 years, at just 0.9 per cent.

The defence agency intends to slash the army's strength from its current force of 152,000 men to 120,000, informed sources said.

What happens when Haitian 'safe havens' fill up?

By Deborah Zabarenko
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Amid veiled threats, brave talk and U.S. policy reversals on Haiti, a key fact lurks: If Haitians keep fleeing at the current rate, "safe havens" for them will fill up fast and push Washington into a new crisis.

Whether that new crisis will prompt a U.S. invasion is still unclear, but analysts in Washington believe pressure for military action is building as President Bill Clinton pointedly refuses to rule it out and beefs up U.S. forces off the coast. More than 1,000 mig-

rants streamed out of Haiti everyday this week, bringing the total to over 16,000 since June 15, when the Clinton administration changed its policy to allow for expedited hearings for would-be refugees.

To cope with the rising tide, the United States is setting up a network of "safe havens" around the Caribbean, including the U.S. military base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and the islands of Antigua, Dominica, Grenada and Turks and Caicos.

Panama had initially agreed to take 10,000, but withdrew its offer Thursday, citing "humiliating" negotiations and shifting

conditions imposed by the United States.

The estimated capacity of the havens seems to change daily, but State Department and Defence Department figures indicate it would be around 22,000.

If that is the case, and the refugees continue to flow out by the thousands, the "safe havens" could be full to bursting in a matter of weeks, and the United States has yet to say what will happen then.

The refugee numbers game gets more complicated when Washington's evolving Haiti policy is taken into consideration. Starting on June 15, when Mr. Clinton allowed for re-

fugee processing on ships off the Jamaican coast, the policy has modified twice.

On Tuesday, William Gray, the president's special adviser on Haiti, said only Haitians who apply for refugee status at three in-country centres would be eligible for resettlement in the United States. All those who flee in the rickety boats that have become a tragic fixture of news reports would only be considered for placement at "havens" in other countries.

Two days later, Mr. Gray articulated a broadened standard for would-be Haitian migrants: Instead of showing proof of a "real

fear" of persecution back home, they need only show "credible fear" to be considered for refugee or "safe haven" status.

Mr. Gray acknowledged this might prompt an even greater flow out of Haiti, but said the trend would be reversed only when Haiti's military leaders make way for exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

He and other administration officials have been careful to keep any U.S. military option on the table, and a Friday visit to the refugee centre at Guantanamo Bay by General John Shalikashvili, the head of the U.S. military joint chiefs of staff, rein-

forced this notion.

Meanwhile, Mr. Clinton himself is being forced to turn his attention from global economic policy at a Naples summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialised nations to the looming crisis on Haiti.

He told a news conference Friday that the actions of Haiti's military leaders would determine whether or not he is forced to send in U.S. troops. "I think the conduct of the military leaders will have more than anything else to do with what options are considered," he said, adding that "their conduct has not been good."

By Mark Fritz
The Associated Press

CYANGUGU, Rwanda — Can rebel soldiers fairly rule a nation overwhelmingly populated by the ethnic group that murdered their families?

Should a government accused of genocide be allowed to rest its blood-stained hands on the negotiating table to talk peace and, perhaps, share power with its victims?

Can illiterate farmers exhorting by their leaders to kill their neighbours in the name of national security be prosecuted for war crimes?

Those are a few of the confounding questions confronting the remnants of Rwanda, which is rapidly approaching a decisive moment to its long, violent history of hatred between two ethnic groups.

Three horrifying months of mass murder and tactical warfare have made much of the world view Rwanda as a corpse-littered wasteland incapable of ever accommodating both the majority Hutus and decimated, depleted Tutsis, who have little left in this country save for an army capable of co-opting it.

But some experts believe Rwanda can survive its insane journey into genocide and civil war if the silent, frightened Hutu moderates emerge as leaders of the majority and, in proportionate partnership with the Tutsi minority, marginalise the fanatical Hutu-led government.

"It's not conceivable that you have a Tutsi-led government. It would not work," said Janet Fleischman, spokeswoman for the Washington-based Human Rights Watch.

"Likewise, you can't have a government in power responsible for the genocide. The moderate Hutu elements have to emerge and disassociate themselves from the people who committed the genocide."

There are two complications:

— Most of the Hutu moderate leaders are dead.

— France, saying it is on a humanitarian mission, posted troops throughout government territory just when the Tutsi-led rebel army threatened to overrun it. Critics say that will have the effect of keeping the largely discredited government intact and viable and a player in eventual peace talks.

On Tuesday in New York, Rwandan rebels announced that they were forming a new government and said they would soon press for Rwanda's seat at the United Nations.

Representatives of the Rwandan Patriotic Front also



A militiaman wounded by rebel mortar shrapnel is carried to the Red Cross hospital by a comrade (AFP photo)

Living in despair

Three horrifying months of mass murder turn Rwanda into a corpse-littered wasteland

The accords collapsed April 6, when Habyarimana died in an unexplained plane crash. Radical Hutu militias began slaughtering Tutsis nationwide, along with Hutu opposition members.

The rebels launched a successful new offensive even as their civilian relatives were being wiped out in the villages. They drove government forces to the western third of the country when France, an old ally of the government, sent in its troops two weeks ago.

Alain Verhaegen, an Africa specialist at Brussels Free

University who visited Rwanda in May and June, said he believes the rebels were perhaps days from overturning the country.

"Everything changed when France intervened," he said. "Their mission was clear. The front line will not move much any more. The game that France is playing is very dangerous."

Had France not intervened, he and other analysts say the rebels may well have won, though they could not have hoped to rule an angry majority alone.

A total Tutsi victory in Rwanda would require "only

the most oppressive regime," said Filip Reyntjens, a University of Antwerp historian who this week published a book on Rwanda.

A U.N. report last week by special investigator Rene Degni-Segui, dean of the University of Abidjan Law School, said that 500,000 people — perhaps even 1 million — have died since April 6, most of them Tutsis.

Tutsis comprised only 800,000 to 1.2 million of the population, and some feel that more than half have died.

Mr. Degni-Segui said that Hutu refugees may have

eventually mounted their own offensive against the Tutsis. He said Hutus in refugee camps in Tanzania already are making plans to return.

"All the Hutus who leave will be back," he said.

Rebel leaders already have said they would form a broad coalition government with the surviving leaders of the Hutu opposition parties if they conquer the country.

But both say they would not negotiate with the government they blame for the killings.

But Mr. Reyntjens said the French presence will stave off

a rebel victory and result in a military stalemate, resulting in a long, drawn-out process of internationally supervised negotiations, perhaps punctuated by a state of "semi-war."

Mr. Reyntjens said the government will have to be a factor in talks because it is supported by "many, many Rwandans, many of whom supported the policy of genocide."

The beleaguered national army is also a factor. Rebel commander Gen. Paul Kagame said that although he would not negotiate with the government, he was willing

to talk peace with soldiers. Human Rights Watch said in a report last month that soldiers, though some organised and helped carry out the massacres, in some cases tried to protect targeted civilians.

A high-ranking opposition official hiding in a government-held town, who spoke only on the condition his name, title and whereabouts not be disclosed, told the Associated Press that he was smuggled out of the capital, Kigali, by sympathetic army officers.

"I'm convinced that the majority of the government troops are not killers," Mr. Gerhaagen said.

But the hate between Hutu and Tutsi extends beyond Rwanda. There are growing tensions in neighbouring Burundi, where the Tutsi minority controls the army, and western Zaire, which is filled with members of both.

"Burundi can explode any day and spread to western Zaire."

King stresses need for national unity

(Continued from page 1)

comprehensive peace and "not peace at any cost."

But the King said: "We are not in a position where we are enjoying the support of a superpower or a group of countries or alliances."

Even ties with the Gulf Arab states have not improved since they were strained after the Gulf war, the King said.

Pointing out that the coming talks with Israel will be difficult and aim at regaining the Kingdom's territorial and

water rights, the King said it should not be expected from Jordan not to address its problems with Israel until after everybody else have solved their disputes.

The King pointed out that Jordan started the peace talks with Israel at the same time as other Arab parties to the peace process after major changes have occurred on both the international and regional arenas. He said Jordan signed the agenda for talks with Israel after the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed the Oslo peace deal which took Jordan by surprise.

Had things moved naturally, the King said, talks on the items of the agenda would have started immediately after it was signed.

The King said the talks would start in few days after a trilateral Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. committee decided to discuss the items on the agenda and to move the talks to the area "as we try to restore our occupied land and sovereignty over it as well as our rights in water."

But the King cautioned that the beginning of these "serious" negotiations does not mean the signing of a peace treaty, which would come only as the culmination of these talks.

The King said Jordan will do the impossible to restore its occupied lands. He rejected remarks that these lands in question are just a border area, and pointed out that they exceed Gaza in size. He also pointed to the Kingdom's increased needs for water.

The King also rejected "implications" that Jordan is going its separate way in its talks with Israel saying "Jordan once took a separate position in its history and that was on the Gulf war, a catastrophe," which he said the Kingdom worked to avoid.

The King said he believed

the circumstances were right for "other brethren to reach their goals in a short time."

King Hussein said Jordan was the first to seek Arab coordination and no country more than Jordan "recognised that lack of coordination will pose threats for (all Arab parties) or offer less opportunities than those which could be had (had coordination existed)."

Egypt, he said, was the leader of the Arab World but chose its own way and put "Egypt first" when it realised that the situation in the Arab World was not suitable, something for which he said Egypt was not responsible.

The King said Jordan does not try to outbid anybody, especially the Palestinians, who suffered and made sacrifices and then chose their own way through their leadership which all Arabs recognise as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The King said Jordan would continue to offer support for the Palestinians but would like to know the areas it can help them in.

But the King said the future of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship can only be decided when the people are free to make their own decisions.

"Any talk of confederation or a united kingdom is an empty talk," the King said.

Speaking on the results of his recent visit to the United States, the King said his talks in the U.S. dealt with the peace process, the economic needs of the Kingdom as well as the possibility of writing off its foreign debts.

He said the talks also dealt with the military needs of the Kingdom and the need to modernise the army and its weapons in light of the developed arsenals that some neighbouring countries have.

"Ties with the United States returned to their nor-

mal level or are on the way to that, and the U.S. administration has the will to provide military and material support to the Kingdom," the King said.

But he said many members of the U.S. Congress are still affected by the impact of the Gulf war on Jordan-U.S. relations. He said the U.S. administration was willing to approach the Congress with plans to write off foreign debt and lift restrictions on supplying the Kingdom with military needs in accordance with a plan the Kingdom is about to finalise.

That, however, is contingent on the Kingdom's continued participation in the peace process and a meeting between him and the Israeli prime minister, the King told lawmakers in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Cabinet members, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and other officials.

The King said a meeting with the Israeli prime minister would serve the interest of Jordan, "I will not hesitate (to meet him) and I would consider that a duty because I would be doing a service to my country which is facing threats from all directions."

King Hussein said the meeting will depend on whether there is a reason for it.

Speaking on the situation of Jerusalem, the King said Jerusalem has its "special status in our heart and it is above all considerations." He said sovereignty over the Islamic shrines in the Holy City should be for the Muslim Nation. Freedom of worship and human rights in the city for all the faithful from the followers of Abraham should be respected, the King said.

"I tell you all this," the King told lawmakers, "so that you share with me the feeling for the urgency of the circumstances and their difficulty, and there is no room for any of us to try to outbid the other."



His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday meets members of Parliament (Petra photo)

'Parliament, Cabinet should cooperate'

(Continued from page 1)

and at the same time psychological suffering... signals that cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities is not as should be.

"I tried to analyse the reasons for this and maybe I was not lucky in finding the convincing answers, and I address you as a brother and hope that you will cooperate together to serve the interests of this country which is passing through the most critical stage in its history, a time that requires us to rise above trivialities and to tolerate each other and work in a manner that would satisfy our conscience."

The King said that when the current House, which was elected in 1993, started to work and when the government was reshuffled, the tendency was, in response to deputies' will, that the ministerial team does not include any House members and since there was no reason to make the team include House members or vice versa, "we found it fit to start anew and the government was formed from elements from this country who are not members of the House, and this procedure did not pass easily because it was criticised in past stages."

"In all circumstances, the government comprises as members brothers from this country entrusted with shouldering their responsibilities and in carrying out their duties, and changes and reshuffles have to take place from time to time."

King Hussein said that when the deputies started moves to form blocs at the House and when it was time for a government reshuffle, it was the belief that representatives of these blocs should be in the government, not on the basis of representation for all blocs, but rather on the basis of proficiency and ability, "in order to move from one stage to another and to enhance relations that should bind us all, especially between the legislative and executive authorities."

"We also felt that this way was also criticised and certainly I personally and the government respond to the will of the deputies and the whole people."

His Majesty also recalled reminding the deputies previously that the emergence of many political parties and alliances impedes flexibility and makes it difficult for the government to cooperate

with political parties. He urged the House members to organise and to have more influential blocs with clear-cut policies and well-defined platforms to enhance cooperation in a manner better than when many blocs are operating.

He said the latest Cabinet reshuffle was not intended to impede progress and normal work or efforts exerted to create these blocs. "On the contrary, the reshuffle was a recognition of their existence and an attempt to attract some of these blocs' representatives to achieve more contacts and understanding during this critical period."

Stressing that national unity should be protected, the King said: "I said this before and I say it as long as I live: 'Every one who attempts to undermine this national unity is my enemy till the day of judgement.' And you might wonder what makes me repeat this at this time and at such a meeting, and I will be frank with you. We are currently at this stage facing pressure that we never faced before and suffering a lot and passing through a line which on one of its sides there is hope that we reach our goals and objectives and on the other side the burden of shouldering responsibilities at this time."

Clinton climbs down on trade at G-7 summit

NAPLES, Italy (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton was forced to climb down in the face of European opposition at a Group of Seven (G-7) summit on Saturday, and withdrew a proposal for a new review of world trade barriers. French officials said.

The setback came on top of the dollar's slide on currency markets, which Mr. Clinton's statements on Friday only exacerbated.

The summit of the G-7 industrial powers was also marred by the absence of new Japanese Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama, 70, who was rushed to hospital Friday night after suffering acute gastroenteritis at the opening summit banquet and was still in the clinic Saturday.

On the eve of the Naples meeting, Mr. Clinton had written to G-7 partners urging an early review of obstacles to trade in sectors such as telecommunications, financial services and aviation that were not settled by last year's GATT world trade treaty.

But French President Francois Mitterrand, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and European Commission President Jacques Delors all told the summit's economic working session the U.S. proposal was premature and could jeopardize ratification of the GATT accord signed in Morocco last April.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, chairing the summit, noting there was no consensus on the idea, asked Mr. Clinton to withdraw his proposal.

"I accept your arguments. We will see after ratification (of the GATT treaty)," French officials quoted Mr. Clinton as saying.

However Italy said a meeting of G-7 trade ministers, to which France had objected, would go ahead on Saturday afternoon.

The summit took no concerted action on the dollar but "economy" ministers

made reassuring statements aimed at calming foreign exchange markets and agreed to step up the frequency of their meetings to monitor economic performance.

Both France and Germany rejected quick-fix measures to prop up the dollar and said the best response to the U.S. currency's weakness was to send the markets a clear signal about the improving health of the world economy.

Mr. Clinton Friday said the summit should not overreact to the dollar's slide.

Although he added that he was not a week dollar, dealers marked the U.S. currency down close to record low levels against the yen on Friday night and to a 20-month low against the mark. It ended at 1.5610 marks in New York, down from an opening 1.5768, and closed at 98.06 yen.

The message conveyed by Italian Treasury Minister Lamberto Dini and French Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery was that the dollar's fall was "neither desirable nor justified."

They said all the conditions existed for non-inflationary growth. The United States was cutting its budget deficit. Europe and Canada were recovering while controlling public deficits and Japan was committed to further tax cuts and market opening.

G-7 leaders offered \$100 million in immediate aid to help close the disaster-stricken Chernobyl nuclear plant in Ukraine, but France and Germany said the money was insufficient and demanded at least double. German officials said.

The pledges, added to \$125 million in immediate grants agreed at last month's European Union summit in Corfu, Greece, fell short of the European Commission's \$300 million target for the first phase of a programme to close Chernobyl completely and replace it with three new nuclear reactors.

Manila opens shipping to foreign competition

MANILA (AFP) — President Fidel Ramos has opened the Philippines' shipping industry up to foreign competition in an attempt to force local operators to improve their notorious safety record.

He told reporters that the move compared in significance with his decision last year to deregulate the telecommunications industry. This has increased telephone business and improved service.

The order mandates local

franchisers of domestic routes to open up to at least one newcomer.

All routes already serviced by a franchise holder for five years "shall be open for entry to additional operators without limit," the order said.

The domestic passenger fleet, regulated by the government Maritime Industry Authority, is notorious for its safety record and poor service.

Passengers in the archipelago of 7,000 islands

Oil companies lock in profits with 'one-stop swaps'

AMSTERDAM (R) — Oil companies are taking advantage of a rally in oil prices to lock in profits on their future oil production with a new type of hedge, officials say.

They are using "one-stop swaps" — integrated insurance policies with banks that combine long-term oil deals, financing and currency hedges — to guarantee profit margins for entire oilfields.

"Two or three months ago many oil producers had negative cash flow. Now there's the opportunity to lock in a healthy margin," said Paul Ford, head of financing products at the Royal Bank of Scotland PLC.

World benchmark Brent Blend crude oil prices stand more than \$4 a barrel higher than they did at the end of the first quarter of the year after a prolonged rally sparked by higher U.S. demand, buying from influential hedge funds and steady

— not higher — supply.

"In March, with crude oil at \$14 a barrel, quite a lot of oil producers were paying to be in the market. At \$16 they were much happier and now we can offer much better than that for at least 10 years — up to \$20 a barrel on some deals," Mr. Ford said.

Officials say the new type of hedge is popular with small, independent oil producers, particularly those with high-cost assets that have to pay commercial rates to borrow money.

"A lot of producers were frightened out of their wits when crude prices crashed during the winter and they are strongly tempted to keep current margins," said the head of derivatives at one major oil company, who declined to be identified.

And the banks are keen to encourage the new business at a time of increasingly tight margins and intense competi-

tion.

"Traditional lending margins are being driven downwards and we're looking at new ways to acquire assets. We have to be more creative now than in the past and combining derivatives is a way of doing this," Mr. Ford said.

Nick Jordan, head of energy at the Royal Bank of Canada, a leading North Sea project financing bank, agreed.

"The motivation is simple — banks are continually seeking new ways of generating income and one way of doing this is to extend into commodities. From a lender's point of view it makes a great deal of sense to offer this sort of hedge," Mr. Jordan said.

The recent slide in the dollar has also helped the business.

"Almost all the independent North Sea producers' earnings are dollar-based but they report in sterling or (Norwegian) crowns. It's all very well if the dollar is doing well, but if the dollar falls they have to hedge," said Paul Newman, director of brokers Intercapital Commodity Swaps Ltd.

Alan McRae, head of structured finance at the derivatives unit of Credit Lyonnais said one-stop swaps are easy to construct around over-the-counter forward oil markets.

"It is now possible to fix the (crude) price forward, arrange the financing and do a dollar swap, all for the same period and integrate the whole," Mr. McRae said.

Clients taking the deals are offered preferential credit.

"We would find customers that use these techniques a more favoured credit proposition," said Mr. Ford. "The companies will be able to raise money at rates applic-

able to a triple A company."

"A small offshore producer can normally only let finance at 150-200 basis points over LIBOR (London Inter Bank Offered Rate) for less than two years. We can offer below 150 for terms of three years plus," he pointed out.

None of the companies contacted by Reuters was prepared publicly to admit signing a one-stop swap, but several said they knew of companies considering them.

"Oil companies are particularly sensitive about this kind of deal," said the Royal Bank of Canada's Jordan.

"Potential investors are often looking for leverage on higher oil prices and if a company has done a straight oil-price swap they have locked in their costs but also capped their profits... but the converse is that at a time of falling oil prices they are happy to say they have hedged."

Lasmo PLC group treasurer James George said the new deals offered potential gains to producers with limited credit.

"A company that didn't have a lot of finance in place could look at something like that," Mr. George said. "They could be companies who can't raise fresh equity, who are limited in the percentage of debt they can raise and want to finance a new project — they could find that sort of deal very interesting."

Alan Henderson, vice-chairman of independent North Sea oil producer Ranger Oil Ltd., said the company welcomed integrated financing deals. "Ranger is a medium-sized company. The development of a field costs several hundred million dollars and it is too much for us to pay. So (it's) very useful — at the right price of course."

Cuba announces fees for previously free items

HAVANA (R) — Cuba said Friday it was introducing fees for a range of previously free items such as vitamin pills, school lunches and cultural and sporting events as part of its efforts to cut a yawning budget deficit.

The new fees, which will come into effect either Aug. 1 or at the start of the school year in September, are also aimed at persuading citizens that they must help contribute to social and other services provided by the state.

The introduction of such

fees was approved at a special session of parliament in early May. A council of ministers statement on the move was published in the daily newspaper of the ruling Communist Party, Granma.

The announcement was the latest step in a cautious process of economic reform on the Caribbean island, plunged into economic crisis by the collapse of its old trade and aid ally the Soviet Union.

Current reform efforts are focused on trying to reduce the budget deficit and cut an

excess of pesos in circulation. The move on fees follows a series of price rises on goods and services announced in May and comes along with plans to introduce income taxes gradually.

Friday's statement noted that the move on fees would not affect Cuba's fundamental principles of free, universal care and education.

But it said that "for not just economic but educational reasons, and in order to achieve a better use of available resources and installa-

tions" it was useful to gradually introduce payment for some products and services.

These included payment for neovitamin II, a vitamin supplement that has been distributed to the entire population to ensure people remain healthy amid the current severe shortages.

The fees for school lunches would be seven pesos a month, the announcement said, while language classes taken outside the educational curriculum would be 20 pesos a month. Low income fami-

lies would be helped by social security to pay for school lunches.

The peso is officially worth one dollar, but on the black market the national currency changes hands for around 120 times less than this. An average Cuban earns about 150 pesos a month.

Small living allowances currently given students in higher education would be replaced by a loan system, with good students rewarded by having to pay back either only part or none of the loan, the statement said.

Fees would be introduced for museums, art galleries and cultural shows, with exceptions made for students and children, the statement

said, without giving prices.

Entry fees for sporting events would have minimum prices ranging from 50 cents to three pesos.

The new fees, while low, are bound to squeeze Cubans already facing a monthly battle to make ends meet and shortages raging from fuel and electricity to basic food items and consumer goods.

Cubans have grown used not just to free health care and education but to a range of other free services since the 1959 revolution that brought President Fidel Castro to power.

But authorities are anxious to persuade people that the state is no longer in a position to provide everything.

Ankara sticks to sell-off target despite court blow

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has no plans to revise its 1994 sell-off agenda after Thursday's annulment of a law enabling the government to speed the sale procedure.

"Privatisation will continue at the same speed, on a legal ground and in line with new measures," Tezcan Yaramanci, the head of the privatisation agency OIB, told Reuters.

The constitutional court, which annulled the law, said it was unconstitutional to annul the law passed by parliament in May. The law empowered

the government to issue decrees to privatise without the need for laws which require more time and complex procedures.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's coalition government has issued five decrees since May.

They opened the way for reorganising OIB and the high board of privatisation, setting up a safety net for employees losing jobs in privatised firms, and moving 20,000 workers from firms on OIB's sale list to jobs created

in other state establishments.

The OIB aims to raise \$2.3 billion in 1994 through the sale of state firms including iron and steel plant Ergil, petroleum distributor Petrol Ofisi and refining company Tupras.

"All the projects which have already started or reached their final stages, as well as those are tendered, will continue without any delay," OIB deputy chairman Ugur Bayar said.

OIB officials say the court decision is not retroactive.

"It can only have a psychological effect on domestic and international markets," an OIB official said. "To cancel the past decrees, another court decision is needed. Even if they are annulled, it would not affect what has been done in the past."

Mumtaz Soysal, a deputy of the coalition's junior partner SHP and one of 90 parliament members to apply to the court for the annulment of the law, said he would go to the court for the cancellation.

"I am preparing to bring a court suit to cancel the decrees," Mr. Soysal, also a

prominent professor of constitutional law, told Reuters. Privatisation is key to the government's April 5 economic plan, which aims to halve the public sector borrowing requirement — 17 per cent of the gross national product in 1993.

Turkey put its stake of about 52 per cent in Ergil on sale last month. It hopes to earn some \$500 million from the sale which will probably be concluded after September.

Apart from Ergil, Turkey is planning to privatise eight major state firms this year. Privatisation has earned Turkey some \$2.3 billion since the sell-off began in 1986 — about \$400 million of this in 1994.

Turkey said in a letter to the IMF in late May that studies in advance of privatising the TEK (Turkish Electric Co.) and the Post Telephone and Telegraph Co. would be completed by the end of 1994. It said two banks would be privatised and a further bank opened to public participation, also by the end of this year.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JULY 10, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Be alert to all that is going on about you as family matters of long standing surface and take on a new dimension. Obtain the information you need from the right sources and reevaluate the facts.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You need to apply yourself more if you wish to gain your most cherished aims. Be more understanding of loved ones in your life.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Try to please those who have done you favours in the past. Don't waste time with those who have an eye on your assets.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Handle routine chores early in the day so you'll have time for social activities later. Make this a worthwhile day for yourself.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Try to be of help to family members before seeking personal pleasures. Be active and you are happy to be alive.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Study new interests which can give you greater abundance in the future. Take a little time for meditation. Be calm.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have to be

more practical now to gain your most cherished aims. Save time to engage in your favourite hobby.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Handle little tasks around the house early in the day and join congenials for recreation. Be clever with others on a new project.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Study your environment and do something to improve it. The afternoon and evening are fine for much sociability with close friends.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Know what your true aims are and then go after them in a positive manner. Show thoughtfulness to others in your life.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Do whatever will add prestige to present standing in your neighbourhood. Show increased devotion to family members.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Study some new philosophy of life and put it to use for your betterment in life. Avoid one who brags too much to be believed.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Use your hunches as well as your good judgment to solve problems today. Show more consideration for the one you love.

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

"Stanley is such a baby, when he leaves the room I get postpartum depression!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ALLAM
LIENN
BOBING
UCCSAU

It's the only one in existence

WHAT THE PRISONERS PLAYED IN THE EXERCISE YARD.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

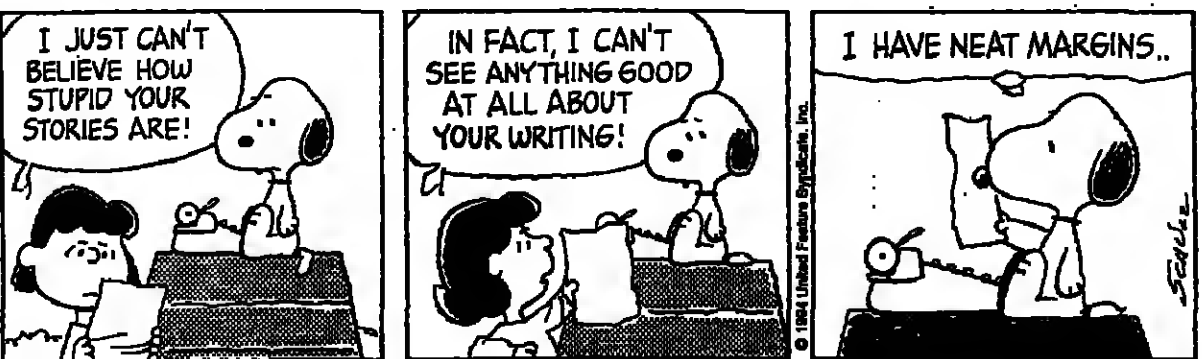
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PIOUS SIXTY PELVIS OUTCRY
Answer: What the shoe repair man was to his family — THEIR 'SOLE' SUPPORT

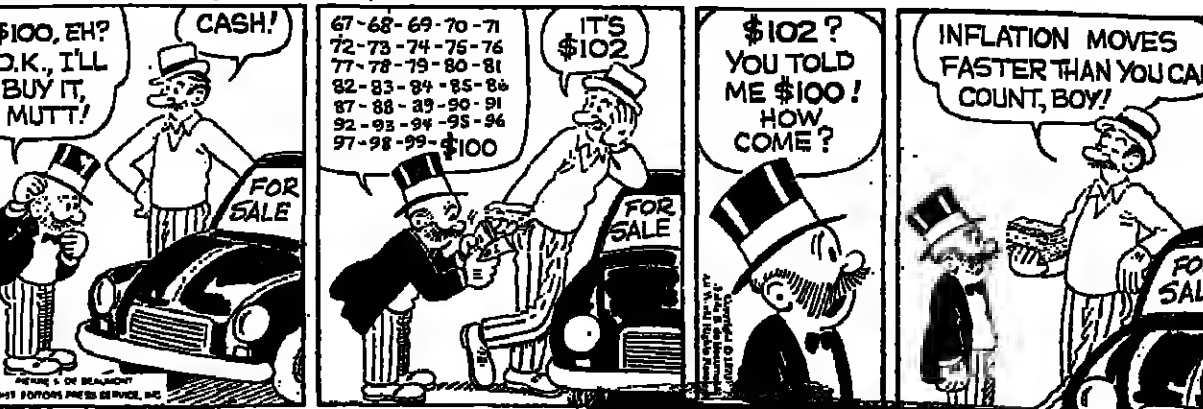
Andy Capp



Peanuts



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS

1. Wastewater

6. Very small particle

10. Grade

14. French river

15. Gouty drink

18. Gen. Robert —

17. Attorney general at times?

19. Yarn

20. Scatter seed

21. Family or shoe end

22. Reflections

24. Outlay

25. Short jacket

26. Desert

29. Member of royalty

33. Jail

34. Baby buggy

35. Earthen jug

36. Young salmon

37. — call (narrow escape)

38. Teller of tall tales

39. Prammer

40. English river

41. Volcanic flow

42. Reply

44. Ascribed

46. Pledge

47. Inflow

48. Tragedy by Racine

51. Monk

52. Turkish vsp

53. Italian commune

58. Comic cruises?

59. Iowa city

60. Melody

61. Name in talk shows

62. Pavilion

63. Asterisk

64. Poverty-stricken

DOWN

1. Pen points

3. Sarapuan

4. Cat call

5. Raincoat

11. One who owns money

12. Thing of value

13. Carry

16. Prom about im

19. Borsloring on the way

10. Blue dog?

11. Sleep like —

12. Desecrate

13. Barrels

18. Major

23. Calendar abbr.

24. Egyptian lost object?

25. Expanse

26. River

27. Winged

28. Stage

29. Ordinary language

30. Inventor Howe

31. Drudge

32. Sandwich wrap

34. Velvet

37. Compositions

38. One who owns money

45. Logic

47. Lamp

48. Land char

49. At — (n)

57. Away

58. One who owns money

59. — moth

62. Yarnable river

63. Pale

64. Pale

65. Away

66. One who owns money



Gheorge Hagi

Hagi holds key to outcome of Romania-Sweden clash

PALO ALTO, California (R) — Gheorge Hagi could hold the key to Romania's first appearance in the World Cup semifinals.

Equally, if opponents Sweden stop him dominating Sunday's quarterfinal, they may make the penultimate round — last achieved in 1958.

Sweden need to prevent Hagi making those imperious runs through midfield, halt his setting up chances on quick counter-attacks for Florin Raducioiu and Ilie Dumitrescu, and also stop him scoring.

But if Hagi shows the same devastating form that helped Romania overcome Argentina in the second round, then Sweden could well struggle.

But the Swedes have plenty of pace, power and panache in their own team to minimise Hagi's influence and create their own havoc in the Romanian defence.

With their pivotal midfielder Jonas Thern, having shaken off a knee injury and Martin Dahlin, Kenneth Andersson and the creative Tomas Brodin, looking as good as any in this tournament, Romania cannot take Sweden lightly.

The teams may not have been everyone's first choice for a place in the last eight but they have both played some excellent soccer over the last three weeks.

Not even Pele can tip the winner. "It is too close to call," he said.

Coincidentally, this will be their second meeting in a month on American soil. On June 12 they met in a friendly at a high school ground in California and drew 1-1.

Sweden and Hagi replied direct from a free-kick, but both camps agree that that match is largely irrelevant.

As Thern said this week: "actually both teams got together before the game and we agreed not to be too hard on each other. I don't think we'll have quite the same agreement on Sunday."

Romania approach the game boosted by the return of Raducioiu after his one-match suspension which ruled him out against Argentina. He will replace Gheorge Mihai and naturally give the team a more attacking bias.

Sweden have had a number of niggling injuries this week, but the only real doubt was defender Joachim Bjorklund, now expected to play after recovering from a groin strain.

An early goal will prove crucial in a game between two sides that play in markedly different styles yet are so evenly matched.

If Romania, who seem to rely on a loose 4-3-2 pattern, score first, Sweden, who reply on a more orthodox 4-4-2, will be forced to attack, leaving themselves open to Romania's quick counter attacks orchestrated by Hagi.

But if Sweden find the target first and Hagi retreats into his shell as he did against Switzerland in the first round, the Swedes could easily take control and even win it with relative ease, although that is the more unlikely scenario.

Hagi, widely considered to be the player of the tournament so far, relishes the big stage — and Sunday's match will be the biggest he has ever played on.

WorldCupUSA



Today's matches

Bulgaria vs. Germany at East Rutherford, N.J., at 19.05 Amman time. Sweden vs. Romania at Stanford at 22.35 Amman time.

The match will be a special occasion for Swedish goalkeeper Thomas Ravelli, who joins Bjorn Nordqvist as his country's most capped player with 115 appearances.

Romanian coach Anghel Iordanescu said Friday: "The team which makes the least mistakes will win."

Swedish counterpart Tommy Svensson said: "Stopping Hagi is the answer, but that is easier said than done."

Probable teams:

Romania: 1-Florin Prunea, 2-Dan Petrescu, 3-Daniel Prodan, 4-Miodrag Belodedici, 6-Gheorghe Popescu, 5-Ionut Lupescu, 7-Dorinel Munteanu, 10-Gheorghe Hagi, 13-Tibor Selymes, 9-Florin Raducioiu, 11-Ilie Dumitrescu.

Sweden: 1-Thomas Ravelli, 2-Roland Nilsson, 3-Patrik Andersson, 4-Joachim Bjorklund, 5-Roger Ljung, 6-Stefan Schwarz, 8-Klas Ingesson, 9-Jonas Thern, 11-Tomas Brodin, 19-Kenneth Andersson, 10-Martin Dahlin.

Referee: Philip Don (England)

Germany to designate a shadow for Stoichkov

NEW YORK (AFP) — Germany will follow proven practice and designate a man to shadow Hristo Stoichkov when they play Bulgaria in their World Cup quarterfinal here Sunday.

"He can decide a game in a few seconds," German coach Berti Vogts said at the team's New Jersey base at Short Hills Friday.

"We had a little zonal test this week which did not quite work out so it looks like we will be delegating somebody to clip his wings."

Germany invariably opt for man-marking when their opponents have an outstanding individual player. The practice goes back to Franz Beckenbauer shadowing England's Bobby Charlton in the 1966 final.

However, Matthias Sammer, who marked Bulgarian playmaker Enzo Scifo out of the game last Saturday is unlikely to even start the match.

"We've accepted playing without Sammer. There's only 36 hours to the match and it doesn't look like it will be long enough," Vogts said.

However, the Borussia Dortmund midfielder will continue to have treatment on the calf muscle he tore in training just in case.

Germany's decision to fly over a Munich back specialist for defender Thomas Strunz's right thigh pain which is caused by a pinched vertebrae nerve paid off.

Strunz is fit and Vogts said he was one of three alternatives to Sammer. Maurizio Gaudino and Andreas Moller are the other two but Vogts would not say who would be Stoichkov's watchdog.

Strunz normally plays wide for Germany but Vogts said he would have no difficulty moving inside.

"He plays in a central position with Stuttgart. It's only for the national side he plays on the flank so we wouldn't have to reinvent the wheel," Vogts said.

German captain Lothar Matthaus, who needed a pain-killing injection for a stitched right instep before his last two games, was ready to play.

"I feel absolutely fit. There is not doubt I will play if selected," he said.

There is little doubt Vogts will risk resting his influential captain who can equal the World Cup record of 21 games against Bulgaria.

Diego Maradona had been set to play a record-breaking 22nd game against the Bulgarians in Argentina's last group game before he was suspended for drugs.

Germany's Uwe Seeler and Wladislaw Zmuda of Poland have also played 21 World Cup games.

"It will be a great experience and a nice personal detail but that won't be the focus of my attention, which is to beat Bulgaria," Matthaus said.

"Bulgaria are a very good team with formidable forwards but we have to try to inflict our game on them by closing spaces so there is no room for their famous counter-attacks," he said.

Bulgarian coach Dimitar Penev said there was little point in worrying about the world champions.

"Germany should worry about us," he said Friday. "We aren't afraid of them because we know them well."

But he added more cautiously: "Everyone knows the Germans well but knowing how to beat them is another matter."

"We have to play against them the way we played against Argentina," said Penev. "Then we can win."

That 2-0 win over Argentina gave Bulgaria a second round match with Mexico in the second round instead of a more demanding encounter with Romania on the West Coast.

But Jurgen Klinsmann and Rudi Voller proved just as effective against Belgium and

Vogts said: "The Bulgarian defence begins to unravel a bit when they come under pressure and Rudi and Jurgen can trouble any defence in the world."

Klinsmann was delighted to be playing again with Voller.

"At first it was difficult because Rudi had not played for the last two years in the national team but we tried various options this spring. Me up front alone or with Moller just behind me, but it didn't work."

"But against Belgium, Rudi came back and played a great match and everything was solved."

Germany, who have reached a record nine semifinals already, beat Bulgaria in their only World Cup final fixture in 1970 and have won the four other internationals.

And although Vogts admitted he had not ruled out the possibility of a penalty shoot-out he refused to name his penalty takers.

"You can practice all day but what counts is who is ready when the moment comes," he said.

Germany are past masters at that practice, too, beating France in 1982, Mexico in 1986 and England in 1990 on their way to the last three finals.

Probable teams:

Germany — 1-Bodo Illgner, 10-Lothar Matthaus, 4-Juergen Kohler, 5-Thomas Helmer, 14-Thomas Berthold, 8-Thomas Haessler, 7-Andi Moeller, 6-Guido Buchwald, 17-Martin Wagner, 13-Rudi Voller, 18-Jurgen Klinsmann.

Bulgaria — 1-Borislav Mihailov, 16-Ilian Kiryakov, 5-Petar Hubchev, 15-Ivaylo Yordanov, 3-Trifon Ivanov, 11-Daniel Borimirov, 9-Yordan Lechkov, 20-Krasimir Balakov, 7-Emil Kostadinov, 10-Nasko Slrakov, 8-Hristo Stoichkov.

Referee: Jose Torres (Colombia).

Soccer gives the world another view of Romania

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — First there was Dracula, then all the orphans and rampaging miners. Now the world is getting a look at something more positive about Romania: Superb soccer players.

It is about time too, say Romanians, who long have been miffed by what they feel is a one-sided image of their country.

After the 3-2 victory over Argentina this week, 100,000 people took to the streets in the biggest celebrations since the country overthrew communism in a bloody revolution in December 1989. National pride hurt with its soccer success.

While the road to democracy has been plagued with obstacles, the path to the World Cup quarterfinals has been inspiring for Romanians.

"The image of Romania has changed," said 45-year-old unemployed Gigi Mares. "Now people have heard of Romania, and that there is a Hagi on this earth," he said of star team captain Gheorge Hagi.

Along with neighbouring Bulgaria, Romania is carrying the Balkan soccer torch into the quarterfinals. And

carrying proof, if any was needed, that talk of the improving gross domestic product and democracy do not count for much on the soccer field.

But then, sport has always been a way to triumph over the world stage for countries of the turbulent Balkans.

Just take the old Yugoslav basketball and soccer teams, or Bulgarian weightlifters, or Nadia Comaneci, the tiny Romanian gymnast who broke hearts and records when she got the first perfect 10 in an Olympics in 1976 at Montreal.

Romanian players have worked hard for the nation to savour moments of victory.

After years locked up at home during the communist regime — and a loss on penalty kicks to the Irish in the 1990 — four years with western European clubs seem to have finely tuned Romanian talent.

"This is a very intelligent team," said sports commentator Ovidiu Ionescu. "They have the talent. All they need is the psychological power."

Even simmering ethnic tensions have been soothed by the success of the multinational team. Hagi is purveyor of Macedonian, defender Tibor

Selymes is Hungarian, and Miodrag Belodedici is Serbian. Ilie Dumitrescu, who scored two superb goals against Argentina, is a Gypsy.

In the Transylvanian city of Tirgu Mures, site of ethnic violence in 1990 in which six people died, they were dancing in the streets after the win against Argentina.

The World Cup success has made for a welcome respite from high inflation, unemployment and theatrical politics for this country of 23 million people.

Not that soccer has made people forget their everyday drudgery.

"We've had even more people cursing (President Ion) Iliescu since the team started winning," said Ion Cristoiu, editor of Romania's bestselling daily Evenimentul Zilei.

Not since the flamboyant antics of Ilie Nastase on the tennis court or the precision of Comaneci on the parallel bars has Romania looked so good to the outside world. And the desire to win is growing with a vengeance.

"This is a perfect way to (show) national pride," said Cristoiu. "This is the way for the country to make a comeback."

World Cup finals free of hooliganism

DALLAS (R) — Hooliganism has been virtually absent from the World Cup finals, FIFA said Friday.

General Secretary Sepp Blatter told a news conference that soccer's governing body had been informed by American World Cup security officials that behaviour of fans and teams had been exemplary.

Blatter said FIFA had received a report of the first 44 matches from the official governmental body responsible for security.

"Their conclusion was that, although there were many more spectators than at any combined U.S. event, they were faced with fewer problems from soccer fans," he said. "This is a big compliment to the whole FIFA family."

Blatter said the report showed that there were only three cases, each involving a solitary fan, of spectators trying to get on to the pitch through almost three million people had attended matches.

The finding vindicated FIFA's wish to have a World Cup with no fencing to keep fans off the field, he added.

Only three of the nine stadiums — Dallas, Washington and Palo Alto — had been

fenced, either partially or totally.

"The trust that FIFA had towards the spectators and their behaviour was right and our efforts towards fair play and respect have been rewarded," Blatter said.

Violent behaviour from hooligans at the last World Cup in Italy in 1990 and at the 1988 and 1992 European soccer championships in Germany and Sweden had worried American security officials before the competition started.

Elaborate contingency plans to cope with hooligans were drawn up, advice was sought from European police officials and immigration screening procedures were brought in to weed out known troublemakers.

In the end, the expense involved for fans travelling from Europe to the United States, fears of tough action by police and the screening process appeared to have solved the problem before it became a problem.

Blatter said there had been more medical than security concerns at stadiums with 400 fans treated for injury or illness, 335 of them suffering from the heat.

But he said no serious cases had been reported.



Jurgen Klinsmann

English clubs agree to tax probe

LONDON (AFP) — The Inland Revenue (IR) is to put England's premier football clubs under the microscope within the next three months after agreeing to a voluntary tax investigation.

The IR announced Friday that the "vast majority" of top leading clubs have agreed to produce reports detailing everything from gate receipts and sponsorship deals and even players' perks.

They have been given a guarantee that all disclosures will remain "confidential."

"I can assure you that the Football Association (FA) have no powers to demand to see them," said IR press officer Diane Gee.

Tottenham recently were fined £1.5 million, banned from the FA Cup and docked six points for next season after being found guilty by the Football Association of making irregular payments.

But Rick Parry, the FA premier league chief executive who is behind the tax move, stressed that the decision to approach the IR was not connected with the Spurs inquiry. It stemmed from dealings with the players' pension scheme.

Vice is right for carefree Bulgarians

PRINCETON, New York (AFP) — Vice-lovers the world over can take heart: Smoking, drinking and having sex have not stopped Bulgaria's football team enjoying unprecedented World Cup success.

Staying up late and not overdoing it on the training field also seem to be key elements of the refreshing recipe that has taken the Bulgarians into Sunday's quarterfinal clash with Germany.

Swiss manager Roy Hodgson, who was convinced that pre-match canoodling would be fatal to his team's chances, might have done better to take at least out of the Bulgarian coaching manual.

While the Swiss, seen by many as potential semifinalists, went home after the second round, the Bulgarians have got better with every match, unfettered by the almost constant presence of their wives and girlfriends.

The Swiss team's thigh muscles might have been in marginally better shape thanks to their enforced abstinence, but a relaxed mind is just as important in football.

When it came to the crunch, the Bulgarians stayed cool in a nerve-racking penalty shoot-out against Mexico while the frustrated Swiss were sent packing by three lapses of concentration against Spain.

Sex is not the only area in which the Bulgarians have

rejected theories based on the virtues of self-denial.

Staff at the squad's Princeton hotel — which they tried to change for something nearer to New York's bright lights — report that the Bulgarians have been closing their bar every night and interviews with players are frequently shrouded in a cloud of smoke.

"About half the squad smoke," said midfielder Gueorgi Gueorgiev, cigarette in one hand, beer in the other. "The coach doesn't mind, but even if he tried to ban it they would only do it secret, so it would be pointless."

"We're all adults. We're not going to do anything stupid the night before a match, but it is also important to relax."

The Bulgarians have certainly been doing plenty of that this week. Extra-time against Mexico took its toll, but it was the night on the town that followed that made coach Dimitar Penev decide to give his side the Wednesday off.

It was hardly back to work Thursday either. Plans for a midday session were shelved because it was too hot and the players headed for the pool.

Penev finally managed to muster a majority of the squad for a token early evening jog round the block, but even that was a bit too strenuous for star striker Hristo Stoichkov, who declined to join in.

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FIFA powerless against societal ills — Havelange

DALLAS (AP) — FIFA President Joao Havelange said Friday soccer will do all it can to keep competition fair and games exciting, but it is powerless to act against ills of society such as drugs and violence.

Havelange said the shooting death of Colombian player Andres Escobar and the drug case of Argentina's Diego Maradona during the World Cup showed that life's tragedies often impose themselves on sports.

"FIFA is very sad about the events that occurred," Havelange said at a news conference. "We communicated that and, with Escobar's death, asked the Colombian government to do all it could to find why such a

great soccer player could be killed.

"But it is impossible for FIFA to take action that could prevent this kind of conduct. You can't expect FIFA to send troops to try to calm things down. If the United Nations is not able to stop something like the killings in Rwanda, how can FIFA intervene in such a situation?"

In the case of Maradona, kicked out of the World Cup last week after flunking a second doping test for the second time in three years, Havelange said soccer officials knew of the player's drug history, but remained powerless to prevent a recurrence.

"We in FIFA have done

much work with Maradona on doping," Havelange said.

"We followed him from Spain to Argentina. We were mindful of the problem and told the team to take note of the problem so, hopefully, it would not recur."

Escobar was gunned down outside a bar in Medellin, Colombia, a week ago. At least three people have been arrested in the slaying, which police say may have been ordered by drug lords or been revenge for an own-goal Escobar scored in a 2-1 loss to the United States that knocked Colombia out of the World Cup.

The killing came less than 48 hours after Maradona tested positive for using five banned stimulants

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LeMond drops out of Tour de France again

RENNES, France (AP) — Greg LeMond, the three-time winner of the Tour de France, ended this year's race on a small hill outside Louvigne du Desert, near the west coast of France during the sixth stage Friday.

He may have ended his career there, too.

Now 33, he was a questionable starter for this year's race after poor performances in the early season.

LeMond dropped out of Friday's sixth stage to make his record over his last three years and did not finish in 1994 and 1992 and a seventh in 1991. He did not start in 1993.

Before that it was simple. (1990 - first-1989 - first-1988 - first). In 1987 and 1988, he was recovering from the accidental shooting and injuries and did not compete. Sean Yates, a Briton with the U.S.-based Motorola team, captured the overall lead Friday that once seemed LeMond's property until 1991.

Gianluca Bortolami of Italy won the stage and Yates took the overall lead by one second over Bortolami.

In this year's race, LeMond was 145th in the overall standings out of 185

riders, nearly nine minutes behind the leader.

LeMond got off his bike at Louvigne du Desert, about 75 kilometres from the finish of Friday's 270-kilometre sixth stage between Cherbourg and Rennes.

The first American to win the tour in 1986, he has been plagued by fatigue the past two years.

He stayed clear of the media Friday afternoon and the co-manager of his team, Michael Laurent, said late Friday night that LeMond had left for home but would not elaborate.

LeMond has a European home in Belgium and resides in Edina, Minnesota.

"We need to leave him alone; he needs peace and quiet," Laurent told the Associated Press in a telephone interview from the team's hotel in Rennes.

After looking for his team car, he had to go into the "voiture halai" (broom wagon) which is required to sweep up all the dropouts. He was alone in the car, the only cyclist to drop out Friday.

It was a sorry ending for the three-time winner.

"He is exhausted and can't recuperate...He trained a lot,



Greg LeMond

but his body didn't respond," Laurent said. "He was already like that several times this year. It's really too bad for him."

"He wasn't out to win the tour, only to finish well," he said. "He was there to offer advice to the young team-

mates." Asked whether LeMond was considering ending his career, Laurent said the cyclist "has to think about it in the coming days or weeks...You don't make a decision like that in 24 hours or 48 hours."

Hill takes British GP pole position

SILVERSTONE, England (AP) — Damon Hill withstood a dramatic late-minute charge from Michael Schumacher Saturday to take the pole position for the British Grand Prix.

Hill, capturing his second pole in as many weeks, took the lead with a seven-minute qualifying session, then re-raced to the pits and watched as Schumacher tried to take back the top spot he had held provisionally Friday.

With the clock running down, Schumacher clocked 1 minute, 26.963 seconds in his Benetton Ford, just .003 seconds behind Hill's winning time of 1:26.960 in the Williams Renault.

Gerhard Berger led for much of the session, but a pit-lane blunder appeared to cost the Austrian a place on the front row of the grid for Sunday's race.

Coming out of the pits, Berger's Ferrari clipped the guard rail, puncturing the left front tire and causing the chassis to drag along the racetrack. He eventually spun and did not drive for the rest of the session.

Berger still retained third place with a time of 1:24.981, and his Ferrari teammate Jean Alesi was fourth in 1:25.541.

Schumacher has won six of the seven races this season, with Hill winning the other race in Spain. Hill held the pole last weekend in France, but Schumacher won the race easily.

Schumacher, while on a pace to rewrite the Formula One record books, has seen his efforts this year take a back seat to tragedy, controversy or just plain hype.

The latest turn of events poised to knock Schumacher off the headlines came minutes after Friday's qualifying session, when word

came from Rome that safety concerns had led to the suspension of September's Italian Grand Prix.

"In the end of the day, the racing is what counts," said a philosophical Schumacher afterward. "I don't think it gets overshadowed."

Schumacher was in top form again when he claimed the provisional pole. Then, even as the fastest driver of the day walked back to the team's trailer to receive the congratulations, came word that Marco Piccinini, the head of the Italian Auto Sports Commission (CSAI), had announced the suspension of the Sept. 11 race at Monza (see story below).

"How can one person cancel Monza?" said Berger, who, along with Schumacher, has pushed for improved safety on Formula One circuits as a leader of the Grand Prix Drivers' Association. "I really don't understand. The drivers say (Monza) has two or three points where you could die — not just get injured, but die — and these two or three points need to be changed. If these points are changed, then it's OK."

Piccinini said his decision had nothing to do with the Monza track, and that he was calling off the race because he felt the FIA rule changes made in the wake of the San Marino tragedies were insufficient.

FIA spokesman Martin Whitaker said his organization would have the ultimate responsibility for whether or not a Grand Prix takes place, but that if the "national governing body refused to license an event, then obviously it cannot go ahead."

The debate over Monza continued as the drivers negotiated the changes made to the Silverstone Circuit as part of the push for improved safety.

Baggio pair put Italy into World Cup semis

BOSTON, Massachusetts (AFP) — Roberto Baggio put Italy into the World Cup semifinals with an 87th minute winner against Spain here Saturday.

Dino Baggio had given Italy a first-half lead which Jose Luis Caminero cancelled out in the 38th minute.

The game appeared to be heading for extra-time when Dino Baggio clipped a superb pass through to Giuseppe Signori. The second half substitute hooked the bouncing ball into Roberto Baggio's path and the forward rounded Spanish goalkeeper Antoni Zubizarreta to shoot home from an angle as Abelardo raced back to try to clear.

Italy play defending champions Germany or Bulgaria for a place in the final.

Spanish second half substitute Julio Salinas made the miss of the match in the 82nd minute. Caminero's chip put him clean through but he shot against Italian goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca's legs. Pagliuca then tipped a dipping 25 metre shot from Fernando Hierro, who had surprisingly not started the

match, over the bar as Spain's mounting pressure began to tell.

Italy had been two minutes away from being knocked out by Nigeria in the second round when Roberto Baggio, equalised and then scored a penalty winner in extra-time.

Temper flared at the end of the match and Hungarian referee Sandor Puhl could have sent off one or two players.

Spain had looked far the better side in the second half and thoroughly deserved their equaliser.

Luis Enrique started the move 40 metres out and exchanged passes with Sergi before Ferrer stepped over the winger's low cross for Caminero to send a looping shot over Pagliuca.

The shot took a deflection off Paolo Maldini and gave the Italian goalkeeper no chance.

Jon Andoni Goikoetxea had chances to increase the lead but Pagliuca made a good save from one shot and then the Spanish forward's weak header from a Ferrer cross let Italy off.



Italy's Dino Baggio (L) is congratulated by teammate Alessandro Costacurta after Baggio scored a first half goal in their Saturday quarterfinal World Cup match at Foxboro Stadium (AFP photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Inter Milan chief under house arrest

MILAN, Italy (AFP) — The president of top Italian football club Inter Milan, Ernesto Pellegrini, was under house arrest here Friday on corruption charges, police said. Pellegrini, 54, had been arrested Thursday on the orders of Sicilian magistrates following allegations involving a catering company he owns. He is accused, along with three others, of rigging an invitation to tender, enabling his company to get a three-year catering contract worth \$30 million to supply a hospital in Catania, Sicily. Pellegrini is believed to have bribed his way to the contracts between 1985 and 1990.

Belgian veteran heads for Marseille

MARSEILLE, France (AFP) — Troubled Olympique Marseille said Friday it will sign veteran Belgian defender Michel de Wolf on a one-year contract next Wednesday. The 36-year-old, capped 43 times for Belgium, has been with Anderlecht since 1990. He will also get an option of a further year with the French club. A match-fixing scandal last year led to Marseille being relegated to the French second division for the coming season and the club's top players have recently been leaving in droves.

Labbadia moves to Cologne

BONN (R) — German Bundesliga side Cologne said Friday they had bought popular striker Bruno Labbadia from newly crowned champions Bayern Munich for about \$1.6 million. Labbadia had spent much of the 1993-94 season on the bench with coach Franz Beckenbauer in charge. His chances of more first-team play under new coach Giovanni Trapattoni looked slim with the signings of French striker Jean-Pierre Papin from AC Milan and Swiss international Alain Suter from Muremberg. "It's hard to leave Munich but with Papin, Suter and (Colombian striker Adolfo) Valencia around I couldn't see any prospects for myself," he said. "Trapattoni told me my chances of selection were 50-50, and that's not enough for me."

Hopeful try out for Tyson movie

NEW YORK (AFP) — Dozens of people tested for the lead role in a movie production about the life of former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson here Thursday. Fans and people who have been told they look like the imprisoned ex-champion arrived in quest of a place in the film "Tyson," based on a Tyson biography written by former light-heavyweight champion Jose Torres.

Olympic champ Louganis plunges into venue battle

ST. LOUIS, Missouri (AFP) — Olympic champion diver Greg Louganis, who says he is "proud" to admit his homosexuality, has joined the fight to remove 1996 Olympic volleyball events from Cobb County, Georgia.

"I'm proud to be standing here as an openly gay athlete," Louganis said. Louganis wants Olympic matches to be moved from the Atlanta suburb because officials there have passed anti-homosexual legislation. The measure survived a reconsideration vote last week.

Louganis, who first admitted his homosexuality at the Gay Games last month in New York, said he worries about Olympic athletes who would compete in Cobb County.

"For the first time, at the Gay Games, I realised how important it was to be accepted for who I am," the 1984 and 1988 Olympic diving champion said.

"That's why I am concerned about the athletes. In addition to the normal pressure of competition, gay athletes will have the additional pressure of knowing they are not welcome."

Harvey Schiller, executive director of the U.S. Olympic Committee, said he does not think the competitive abilities of athletes will be affected by the Cobb County statutes. Cathy Turner, who won

two speedskating gold medals at the Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway, said she supported Louganis and his fight even though she had never heard of the Cobb County situation until he spoke Thursday.

"It's hard enough to go out there and compete," she said. "No athlete deserves the extra pressure of something like that. It's like racism. We can't have that in this country."

Jon-Ivan Weaver, leader of the protest group against the Olympic site, called the support of Louganis "the best thing that could ever happen to us," and said more than one million protesters could be brought to the site to protest in 1996. Organisers, hopeful the county will settle the problem, said they will wait until January before making a final decision about the venue.

Others measured the speech by Louganis in personal terms, admiring his admission.

"For him to do what he did today truly took the courage of an Olympian," U.S. diving spokesman Steve McFarland said.

Retired diver Wendy Lian Williams, a 1988 Olympic bronze medalist, wondered if rumours about Louganis kept him from receiving big-money sponsorships for his Olympic triumphs.

Stoichkov denies rift among players

PRINCETON, New Jersey (R) — Striker Hristo Stoichkov has denied reports of a split in the Bulgarian camp as they prepare to face defending champions Germany in Sunday's World Cup quarterfinal.

Stoichkov, whose four goals in as many matches have helped lift his country into the last eight for the first time, was scornful of suggestions from some sources that he has more say in team selection than Bulgarian coach Dimitar Penev.

"That is the silliest thing in the world," said the Barcelona forward. "I help the team, but I never say anything about the line-up."

"I'm not the leader. I'm just another player."

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SOUTH
♠ 10 9 8 5 4 2
♥ 9
♦ A K 5 2
♣ A

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Pass 5♥ Pass 5♥
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Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠

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Border talks begin June 18; trilaterals three days later

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian-Israeli bilateral negotiations on border demarcation and water sharing will begin in the Jordan Valley at a spot some 20 kilometres north of Aqaba on June 18, Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said Saturday.

After three days of bilateral talks, the two sides will move to another site, also on the border, for a meeting of the Jordanian-American-Israeli trilateral commission which will be attended by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the Jordanian and Israeli foreign ministers, Dr. Anani said.

Asked whether it meant Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, who also holds the foreign affairs portfolio, will be attending the meeting, Dr. Anani told the Jordan Times: "Probably," but that Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan could also head the delegation.

U.S. Ambassador to the Jordan, Faye Tarawneh, will lead the Kingdom's delegation to the bilateral talks, which, in the first three days, will focus on procedural matters and set the guidelines for negotiations.

Negotiations will start in earnest when the bilateral negotiators return from the meetings of the trilateral commission.

The talks are expected to be held in strategically placed airconditioned caravans straddling the boundaries apparently in a bid not to give ammunition to critics of the peace process who oppose any Israeli official visiting

Jordanian territory.

Dr. Anani said it was not immediately known how long the trilateral commission would meet, but that Mr. Christopher would be attending the initial round of discussions. The minister declined to pinpoint the site for the trilateral talks.

"It could be 100 kilometres, 120 kilometres or 200 kilometres from the border," the minister said.

It will be the fourth meeting of the trilateral working group, which was set up in October during a visit to the U.S. by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and announced by President Bill Clinton after hosting a meeting attended by the Crown Prince and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the White House.

In its meetings since then, the commission produced Jordanian-Israeli agreements on the reopening of Jordanian commercial banks in the occupied territories and the Kingdom's role in the banking and monetary affairs of the Palestinians living there. It was also under the umbrella of the commission that Jordan and Israel agreed last month to launch talks on the key aspects of the bilateral conflict — demarcation of borders and water rights.

During that meeting, both Jordan and Israel presented various proposals enshrining their visions on economic development of the Jordan Rift Valley, which is currently shared by both.

"It was agreed that the U.S. will present an American proposal" including elements from both Jordanian and Israeli proposals, and



Jawad Anani

this is expected to be done at the meeting next week, Dr. Anani said.

Projects expected to come under focus include a 270-kilometre pipeline/canal to bring Red Sea water to the Dead Sea to address the area's water and power problems, a road linking Aqaba with Israel's Eilat port and Egypt's Tabaa, a transnational park and an airport that would serve both Eilat and Aqaba.

The Red Sea-Dead Sea linkage was originally proposed by Jordan to counter an Israeli Mediterranean-Dead Sea canal proposal. Subsequently, Israel said it was shelving its plan, but it came up with a Red-Dead canal proposal similar to that of Jordan.

The Kingdom is looking forward to an acceptance of its plan or what could be an American compromise proposal. All outputs from the project will be shared among

Jordan, Israel and the Palestinians — the three riparians of the Dead Sea.

However, serious discussions on joint projects in economic cooperation will begin only after Jordan and Israel arrive at agreements on borders and water rights, according to the information minister. Other issues expected to be covered in the same discussions are security and the environment.

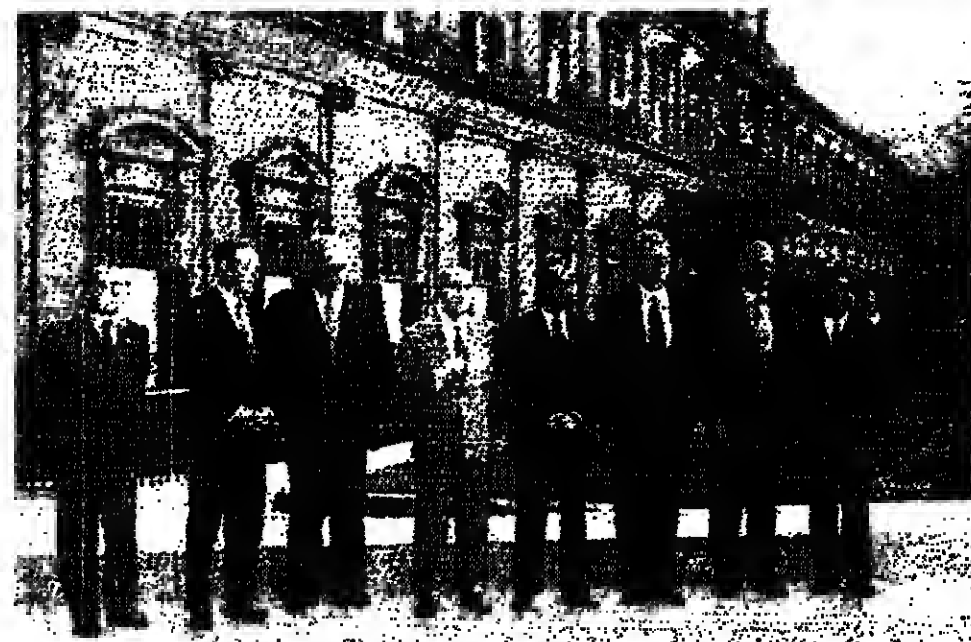
Dr. Anani said there might be some changes in the Jordanian delegation to the negotiations. He did not elaborate. However, other sources said a list of negotiators, advisors and consultants and support staff was being prepared.

In the territorial context of the negotiations, Jordan will be seeking the return of 380 square kilometres of land in the south and nearly one square kilometre in the north occupied by Israel in the years since its creation in 1948.

The Kingdom will also be seeking Israeli compliance with Jordan's rightful demands to a fair share of waters from the rivers Jordan and Yarmouk in the north.

A statement issued after a Cabinet meeting said later Saturday the Council of Ministers approved the composition of the Jordanian delegation.

The delegation will be headed by Dr. Tarawneh and will include members of the working groups on water, the environment, energy, security, and broders as well as advisers from the Jordanian Armed Forces and back-up teams, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.



(Left to right): European Commission President Jacques Delors, Jean Chretien of Canada, Helmut Kohl of Germany, Francois Mitterrand of France, Silvio Berlusconi of Italy, Bill Clinton of the U.S., John Major of Britain and Japanese Foreign Minister Yobei Kono who replaced Premier Tomichi Murayama after he was hospitalised, pose for a group picture at the start of the G-7 summit at Naples (AFP photo)

G-7 shelves U.S. plan, tackles unemployment

NAPLES (Agencies) — The world's top industrial countries rebuffed a new U.S. trade proposal Saturday but vowed renewed efforts to attack record global unemployment.

The summit economic communique said that the countries supported continued efforts to tear down global trade barriers.

However, that language fell far short of a U.S. proposal to launch a new round of global trade talks aimed at attacking specific barriers in such key sectors as telecommunications and financial services.

The reading of the final communique was briefly delayed by last-minute haggling over how the leaders should address the ticklish problem of the dollar's plunge on global currency markets.

The world leaders did pledge to attack barriers to job growth and promote job training as a way to reduce the record levels of people out of work.

"Unemployment remains far too high, with over 24 million unemployed in our countries alone," the leaders said in their joint statement.

"This is an unacceptable waste," President Clinton and the leaders of Germany, Britain, France and Canada looked on as Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi read the final communique in an elegant, red and gold theatre in the palace where their meetings were held.

The leaders met in a summit overshadowed by the sudden death of North Korean President Kim Il Sung. Illness kept Japanese Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama from the opening session.

In the communique, there was no mention of the dollar's recent troubles, in which it has plunged to record lows against the Japanese yen.

Summit sources, demanding anonymity, said that the United States and France wanted a specific reference to the dollar in the final statement, but other nations balked at this idea.

President Clinton and the leaders of Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy worked overtime to conclude the economic portion of their three days of talks.

After a reading of the economic communique, Mr. Clinton and the others were to meet with Russian President Boris Yeltsin for a discussion of global uncertainty over Kim's death, which was expected to be at the top of the agenda.

Mr. Yeltsin arrived late Saturday, beaming as he stepped off the plane into the warm afternoon sun.

In the communique, a scaled-down U.S. initiative to at least study the feasibility of launching new global trade talks had been crossed out as the United States gave in to vehement objections from French President Francois Mitterrand.

Mr. Mitterrand argued that the nations should win legislative approval for last year's market-opening agreement before taking on a new round of trade talks. Mr. Clinton withdrew the proposal and reportedly told summit partners he'd bring it up at next year's summit in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

In the draft, the leaders underscored their determination to ratify the 123-nation agreement in time to create a new world trade organisation by Jan. 1.

"We are resolved to continue the momentum of trade liberalisation," they said.

In other developments: — Ukraine could receive more than \$4 billion in aid from Group of Seven states if it works towards reforming its economy.

The G-7 countries also decided to award Ukraine up to \$200 million towards shutting down its controversial Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

The summit will call for political dialogue in Algeria but in language that masks differences between France and some of its partners on the role of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), host nation Italy said.

G-7 foreign ministers on Saturday morning discussed civil strife in Algeria thrust onto the agenda by the killing in Algeria of seven Italian merchant seamen on the eve of the July 8-10 Naples gathering (see page 2).

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino said after the session that a passage on Algeria, and condemnation of "terrorism in all its forms," would be contained in a political statement due to be issued by the summit leaders on Sunday.

Call on G-7

Mr. Arafat on Saturday warned the world's richest nations the Middle East peace process would collapse unless they provided financial help for his people, but received only general assurances.

"Without their support, no doubt we can give some promises to our people, but they (the Palestinians) also want to live and without real support the peace process will be collapsing," Mr. Arafat told Italian radio in a message to the G-7 summit.

Although the Group of Seven's communique on economic issues pledged up to \$4 billion for Ukraine, no specific sums were mentioned for the new Palestinian authority Mr. Arafat is running.

In the Middle East, economic development is essential to underpin the peace process. Thus, along with others, we are providing financial and technical assistance to the Palestinian authority," the G-7 communique said.

Mr. Arafat told Italian radio he had sent his warning last week to U.S. President Bill Clinton and the other G-7 leaders through their embassies in Tunis.

They said Mr. Arafat at his talks with King Fahd might

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordanian held by Philippine authorities

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AFP) — A Jordanian heading the local office of a Saudi Arabian-based Islamic relief group has been held by immigration authorities amid a crackdown against foreigners suspected of assisting Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas, an official said Saturday. Mama Kasan, chief of the immigration bureau's intelligence division, said Tariq Ishmail, 27, local head of the Islamic International Relief Organisation, was held on Friday. He is the third foreigner to be detained on suspicion of involvement with the Abu Sayyaf, an outlawed Muslim fundamentalist group. He was originally brought in for questioning on whether he was involved with group which has launched numerous attacks against Christians. He was found to have no documents for his stay in the country and was held at the local military command, Mr. Kasan said. An Iranian, Shamsodin Hosseini, 45, a native of Tehran, was also brought in for questioning in relation to the Abu Sayyaf group on Tuesday and then later held after he was found to have an expired visa and passport. Mr. Kasan said a Pakistani was also being held but did not identify him.

Tunisia opens phone links with Israel

TUNIS (AP) — Tunisia has become the first Arab country to open telephone lines with Israel since the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Jewish state signed a peace agreement Sept. 13, it was confirmed Saturday. There was no official announcement but Tunisia sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press that telephone lines were opened with Israel on Thursday and the service was now available to all subscribers by direct dialing. The service, confirmed by the AP with a telephone call to occupied Jerusalem, also covers Palestinian territories in the autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho and the occupied West Bank. Tunisia, like nearly all Arab countries, was not linked telephonically with Israel. The key exception is Egypt, which signed a peace treaty with the Jewish state in 1979.

Iraq signs 540 accords with foreign firms

NICOSIA (AFP) — Iraq has signed 540 business agreements with foreign companies in the past six months, anticipating the lifting of international sanctions. The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Saturday. Italian, French, Turkish and Canadian firms were among those signing accords with the Iraqi chambers of commerce, INA said. The accords covered trade, particularly Iraqi imports of industrial and hygiene equipment, said Zuhair Abdul Ghafur Yunes, head of the union of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce, quoted by INA.

First Palestinian diplomats graduate

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's diplomatic institute graduated 23 Palestinian diplomats Saturday. The first to enter the diplomatic service of the autonomous Palestinian authority in Gaza and Jericho, Zuhdi Al Qudra, chief of the Palestinian embassy in Cairo, said the group underwent a three-week course in the institute, an arm of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. Egypt, other Arab states and some non-Arab countries recognise Palestine as a state and afford diplomatic privileges to its representatives. But Mr. Qudra said Saturday's graduates are the first to complete formal diplomatic training. He said other groups will take the course in coming weeks, all at the Egyptian institute.

Ben Bella slams West's 'crocodile tears'

ROME (AFP) — Former Algerian President Ahmad Ben Bella accused Group of Seven leaders of failing to understand that Africa was "a time bomb waiting to go off" and offering "only crocodile tears" while poverty in the Third World grew at an increasing rate. Speaking about his own country in an interview in the daily L'Unita on Saturday, Mr. Ben Bella noted that Algeria's annual payments in debt servicing and other costs exceeded its receipts by around \$30 million dollars: "Veritable robbery, worse than the mafia, and the cause of an exponential increase" in poverty. "Why is the G-7 not speaking about this?" he asked. "The G-7 continues to forget that Africa is a time bomb waiting to go off for the west. The major industrialised countries have only crocodile tears for the Third World." He cited petroleum development as an area in which Western promises had rebounded against developing countries: "Now we have to pay them enormous sums in return for their aid." Mr. Ben Bella was in Naples to attend an "alternative G-7" meeting of representatives from developing countries.

Rocket attacks kill 22 in Kabul suburbs

KABUL (AP) — The opposition forces have pounded the northwestern suburbs of Kabul with rockets, killing at least 22 civilians and injuring 80 over the past three days, a government official said Saturday. Meanwhile, President Burhanuddin Rabbani was expected to propose a temporary ceasefire for the planned visit to Kabul by Hamid Al Ghabid, secretary general of Organisation of Islamic Conference. Dr. Ghabid has been in neighbouring Pakistan, trying to arrange a visit to Kabul. He wants to meet with leaders of the warring Afghan factions to seek ways of halting the civil war. However, the fighting has prevented him from going to the Afghan capital and his mission is given little chance of success. Mr. Rabbani was expected to propose the ceasefire soon. But there was no word on whether the truce would be observed by the main opposition alliance, led by renegade Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and warlord Rashid Dostum.

Thai court rejects arrest requests

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thailand's top court has rejected a police request to arrest 22 people in connection with the mishandling of \$20 million in jewelry stolen in Saudi Arabia in 1989, news reports said Saturday. The supreme court said Friday investigators had not presented enough evidence to warrant arresting the suspects, who included police officers, their wives and local jewelers, the reports said. Eight Thais, all but one a policeman, already are on trial in the case. The gems were taken from the palace of a Saudi prince by a Thai servant, who fled to Thailand where he was jailed and the loot was recovered. But not all jewelry was returned and much of what was given back was fake.

19 killed in village in western Iran

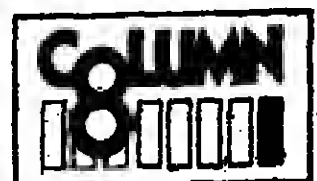
TEHRAN (AFP) — Two men shot dead 19 members of a rival nomadic tribe, including women and children, and seriously wounded eight others in a village in southwestern Iran, official Tehran Radio reported Saturday. The men who were brothers, carried out the massacre Friday because of "tribal problems" in Hoffe-Sharghi village in Khuzestan province, the radio said. The gunmen later fled and security forces launched a manhunt. Khuzestan is home to several Arab minorities grouped in a dozen different tribes.

Verdict postponed in Alif trial

CAIRO (AFP) — Cairo's higher military court has postponed until Thursday its verdict in the trial of 17 militants accused of attempting to kill Egyptian Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi, judicial sources said here Saturday. No explanation was given for the postponement of the verdict, which was due to be given Saturday. The trial opened on June 5. The source said the 15 accused being held by the authorities did not attend the hearing Saturday. The other two are being tried in absentia. The defendants are alleged members of the Al Jihad (holy war) fundamentalist group's military wing, Talaah Al Fatah (Vanguard of the Conquest). They are accused of having killed three passers-by in a bomb explosion in Cairo last August targeting the interior minister, who was wounded in the arm. They are also accused of murdering a dissident member of their group and the main prosecution witness in the trial of suspects who allegedly tried to kill Prime Minister Atef Sedki.

Hassan II proposes coalition government

RABAT (R) — King Hassan II of Morocco hopes a coalition government representing all parties will be formed before the end of this year to replace the present formation of non-party independents. "I appeal to political parties in parliament... to work in a coalition government at the end of this year," the king said on Friday night in a broadcast marking his 65th birthday which falls on Saturday. "I am counting on you to answer in the affirmative to work together on an agreed programme," he added, addressing the leaders of nine parties represented in the 333-seat chamber of representatives. The present government was formed in November with Mohammed Karim Lamrani as prime minister after legislative elections last summer produced a hung parliament with no party or group of parties winning a majority.



Neapolitan uses police radio to insult Clinton

NAPLES, Italy (R) — As President Bill Clinton arrived for the Group of Seven summit in this southern Italian port city on Thursday night, a disgruntled Italian used police radio frequencies to hurl insults at the U.S. leader. The Italian News Agency (ANSA) quoted police sources as saying that while Mr. Clinton's motorcade was travelling from the airport to his waterfront hotel, causing huge traffic jams throughout the city, an unknown voice repeatedly broke into the radio with what it delicately called "vulgar expressions". The sources said the unknown hacker gave his views on the Americans and the police, interrupting communications between Italian and U.S. security agents. They gave no details of the insults, but added that Mr. Clinton himself had not heard them and admitted that they had little or no hope of finding out who had been responsible.

7 bruised, battered during Pamplona bull run

PAMPLONA, Spain (AP) — Seven people were bruised, battered and generally beaten up as they dashed through the streets of Pamplona ahead of a herd of aggravated fighting bulls. But the runners managed to avoid the animals' horns, the sharpest danger during the San Fermin Festival, an annual orgy of drinking, dancing and death-defiance that caught the imagination of thrill-seekers everywhere when it featured prominently in Ernest Hemingway's 1926 novel The Sun Also Rises. The day's casualties brought to 12 the number of people treated at local hospitals for injuries received during the bull runs. Friday's was the second of eight runs held during the nine-day festival. Eric Berg, 24, of the United States, suffered a dislocated shoulder during the 825-metre run from the corral to the city bull ring. Doctors at the Virgen Del Camino Hospital said he was unsure whether he hurt himself in a fall, was trampled by a bull or was injured by other runners, who frequently push into each other in a desperate attempt to avoid being gored. "There were no obvious marks — sometimes we see hoof prints," said emergency ward chief Dr. Alfredo Charles. Berg and three Spaniards were treated and released. Pamplona native Javier Perez Garcia, 22, who suffered a broken jaw, and two other Spaniards remained hospitalised. None was in serious condition. "Now we're just waiting for the weekend, which tends to be the worst time," said Dr. Charles.

Var bar owners in court over slot machines

TOULON, France (AFP) — Fifty-one bar owners and slot machine installers held since a police raid in the Var region of southwest France were brought to court here Friday, judicial officials said. The men were held for further questioning over "illegal use and installation of slot machines." The maximum sentence for the offence is two years in prison and a one million franc (\$190,000) fine. Police netted 60 people in 36 bars in a huge police raid Wednesday and seized 80 slot machines. In February, right-wing French deputy Yann Piat was shot dead after campaigning against collusion between politicians and the mafia in the Var region.

Peregrine falcons protect the automotive kind

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Three peregrine falcons have saved hundreds of metallic falcons from the foul habits of thousands of sea gulls. The falcons — Pella, Peter Gunn and Pagan — were brought from a bird sanctuary near Melbourne to scare the 10,000 gulls that had been feeding at a dump near Ford's Australia plant. The birds also left droppings on many of the 300 shiny new Ford Falcons that the factory produces each day.

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